VAN BUTCHELL ON FISTULA &c.

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May be consulted daily (Sundays excepted)
from 10 till 2 o'Clock,
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FACTS AND OBSERVATIONS

RELATIVE TO

A SUCCESSFUL MODE OF TREATING

PILES, FISTULA,

HŒMORRHOIDAL EXCRESCENCES, TUMOURS, AND STRICTURES,

WITHOUT CUTTING OR CONFINEMENT.

Illustrated with numerous Cases.

BEING A FAMILIAR EXPOSITION OF THE PRACTICE OF

S. J. VAN BUTCHELL,

SURGEON-ACCOUCHEUR.

TENTH EDITION,

REVISED.

LONDON:

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PREFACE

TO THE TENTH EDITION.

ALTHOUGH but a very few years have elapsed since the first publication of this work, yet, so extensive has been its circulation, that I am now called upon to prepare a TENTH EDITION.

In addition to the pleasure which every author feels in seeing his labours appreciated by the public, I have the gratification of knowing that, through the medium of these pages, numbers of afflicted persons, who were previously ignorant of there being any cure for their distressing complaints (without the painful, and at all times dangerous, operation of the knife), have been induced to seek relief; and many who fancied themselves shut out

from all hope of recovery, are now rapidly approaching a state of convalescence.

Among the numerous sentiments of approval that have reached me from various quarters, are some from medical and surgical practitioners of great eminence, which are the more gratifying from the circumstance of my being personally unknown to them.

A few of the numerous testimonials with which I have been honoured by the public Press, and also several recent cases in which I have been successful, will be found at the end of the present edition.

S. J. VAN BUTCHELL.

27, Baker Street, Portman Square,
October, 1847.

INTRODUCTION.

In the wide circle of suffering which humanity is heir to, there is, perhaps, no class of diseases more painful and distressing in effect, or more frequent and common of occurrence, than those which form the topic of the present short treatise. Numerous books of late years have been written on the subjects, and some of the ablest surgical writers have contributed their efforts towards the elucidation of the different disorders affecting the rectum and the anus. Much advantage, and a greatly improved treatment of these important diseases, have been the result; and it might be thought that so much having already been done, would render superfluous the present

edition: such a supposition, however, will be found, upon a little examination, to be erroneous; much more yet remains to be done — for there are no diseases respecting which more conflicting, arbitrary, and erroneous opinions still prevail; and the mischiefs naturally arising out of these are the cause of the great incertitude that displays itself in alternate timidity and cruelty of practice, which characterises the surgical treatment of these diseases even in the present day. Moreover, it will be found that the best of the works alluded to are little calculated for the beneficial study of the afflicted themselves; they have been mostly written with a view to professional display, and are especially diffuse upon such parts of the subject as most readily admit of it; which, while most interesting to surgeons themselves, afford but little useful information to the general reader. Such, however, has been the rapid spread of information, both general and scientific, among all classes of late, that it would scarcely be possible to

find any afflicted individual who does not desire for information on, and a capability of comprehending the nature of his complaint, so far as to enable him to know what should be pursued and what shunned; to promote the comfort of a body diseased, or predisposed to disease, and indicate the surest and easiest paths back again to health.

In compliance with this presumed desire for information, I have been induced to publish the following facts and observations on the diseases of the lower intestines, with a record of some of the many cases that I have treated successfully, in a large practice, which, during the last twenty-two years of my life, has been devoted exclusively to the cure of those complaints.

I have endeavoured earnestly to divest my pages of all technicalities, so as to render what information they contain available to all; and the only apology I have to offer for obtruding

myself so briefly upon the public notice is, that I believe I have that to communicate which it concerns the public to know, and have not leisure nor health to undertake a more elaborate work.

CHAPTER I.

OF THE CAUSES, NATURE, AND TREATMENT OF HŒMORRHOIDS OR PILES.

Various causes may conduce to an attack of piles. In some cases they may be attributed to predisposed tendency, which impedes the return of blood through the blood vessels of the rectum, or lower intestine, those veins not being, like others, supplied with valves, and deriving but little support from the yielding, loose cellular lining of that intestine, which renders them liable to become distended and gorged with blood, either from the slightest constitutional or mechanical consequences. In other cases they may be traced to the very frequent and decided influence of hereditary predisposition; while, among the more immediate causes of this complaint, may be enumerated sluggish or costive bowels — sedentary habits — violent,

and more particularly depressive passions of the mind — drastic purgatives — irritation of worms — some particular aliments — and luxurious habits.

The literal definition of the word hœmorrhoids, signifies a flow of blood; but, in the more usual acceptation of the term, hœmorrhoids or piles are tumours which make their appearance near the anus or within the rectum at irregular or periodical intervals; and from the circumstance of their being sometimes attended with an effusion of blood, are generally divided into two principal kinds. When that effusion is present, they are called open or true piles; and when otherwise, they are termed blind piles. Internal and external is also a further division of these tumours; but as those which form within are frequently protruded, it is a distinction of very minor consequence, except it be applied to their surgical treatment, and then the situation from which they actually arise is of the greatest importance as to the means to be employed in removing them.

The effusion of blood has led to an erroneous supposition of its being a symptom or consequence of the tumours; but experience has given sufficient proof, that although they frequently occur together, yet one often exists without the other. It is also sufficiently evident that the flow of blood and the tumours proceed from the same source, and may generally be considered as varieties of the same complaint, although the immediate and special cause is not the same in every instance. I shall therefore define hœmorrhoids to be a morbid state of the vessels of the rectum and anus, with constriction and pain, attended or succeeded by the formation of internal or external tumours in those parts, and frequently accompanied by an irregular or periodical effusion of blood.

The gravitation of blood to the veins of the lower bowel, on which the due circulations of all the other bowels are dependent, exposes those veins to be liable to much strain and pressure at all times; and whatever tends to throw the blood inward upon the bowels, the consequent

increased congestion of the veins of the rectum, its great sensibility, the acrid nature of its contents, and peculiar muscular construction of its termination, render it the seat of local swellings, inflammations, and effusions.

Many of the more trivial ailments of the fundament would be prevented by washing with soap and water after the bowels have been relieved, as some impurity is likely to remain on the irregular surface, or around small piles that have formed, which much tends to cause their growth and formation by its irritating nature.

CHAPTER II.

ORIGIN AND GENERAL CHARACTER.

A PRIMARY attack of hœmorrhoids is usually very slight, and without any previous or perceptible constitutional derangement. It is attended with more or less sensation of fulness and weight about the extremity of the rectum, usually extending to the sacrum and perineum, with increased and sympathetic sensibility of the urethra, bladder, &c.

During this state, which generally continues from two to three days, some inconvenience is experienced when the bowels are moved, and in many cases a slight flow of blood takes place at the time, which smears the surface of the fœces with a bright red colour; but in some instances

the flow of blood never occurs during the first or second hœmorrhoidal attack, and its occurrence seems to form a critical turn in the complaint; and the above symptoms are thereby relieved and disappear for a longer or shorter interval, to be renewed in a much greater degree, and acquire strength by every repetition of them. The blood is also more profusely discharged, tumours of varied size appear around or within the anus, and the tension pain and sympathetic sensations alluded to are proportionably increased.

The procedure of these tumours are attended with a smarting pricking pain, which increases as they become extended, and is frequently much aggravated by the pressure of the sphincter muscles after stool, when the blood is sometimes spurted out through small apertures, or oozes more gently from their surface. Sometimes they are moistened by an exhaled whitish serum from their surface, or they are quite dry; but after being dilated for some time, they in either case periodically collapse into pendulous flaps of skin,

and, when external, form an indented and protruding margin to the anus.

The influence of this local affection has a perceptible effect on the appearance of those of irritable and weak constitutions; the countenance looks pale and dejected, the eye is languid and sunk, the feet swell, the abdomen becomes tumid and the pulse hard, with dryness in the mouth accompanied by shiverings.

CHAPTER III.

SOURCE AND NATURE OF HŒMORRHOIDAL DISCHARGE.

The amount of blood discharged at a time varies from a drachm to an ounce, or even a pint; but many accredited writers have quoted cases in which the quantity of blood discharged appears almost incredible. Smetius relates a case of a man, forty-eight years of age, who passed thirty pounds of blood from the anus in three or four days; and Hoffman has stated the case of a female who, after the menstrual and hœmorrhoidal effusion had been suppressed for some time, voided more than twenty pounds weight of blood in twenty-four hours. Such details may seem liable to be exaggerated either from the quantity not being correctly ascertained, or a disposition in some patients to add to the singularity of their case, and the admixture of

other fluids may impose a belief in the quantity of blood being much more than it really is; yet there can be no doubt that discharges of blood, or of fluids bearing a strong resemblance to it, sometimes occur to a very great extent without proving fatal, as exemplified in the following cases, which fell under my observation some years ago:—

A lady from Wiltshire consulted me for a disease of the rectum, which she considered piles; on examination I found a tumour as large as a hen's egg. I told her it would be necessary for her to undergo a slight operation to have it removed, to which she consented. I ordered her a draught, to be taken at night, and the following day I ordered her an injection, consisting of a pint of gruel and one ounce of castor oil. After relieving the bowels, the tumour protruded, and very copious hœmorrhage (at least three pints of blood followed). I had some difficulty in subduing the hœmorrhage, and I was obliged to stay with her nearly two hours before it completely subsided. In about four days after I applied

my usual dressing, which removed the tumour without her losing a drop of blood; and she returned home in one month from the time she first consulted me, perfectly cured.

This case was a very extraordinary one: the lady assured me she had often gone a week without having a call to evacuate the bowels, and on one occasion she had not had an evacuation for nineteen days, during which period she had taken nearly one pint of castor oil.

Another case was that of a gentleman from Kent, who consulted me for some small tumours of the rectum. He complained that they were very troublesome, and that after he had been to stool a very copious discharge of blood always followed. I desired him to go to my water closet and empty the bowels, and then I would examine his case. After waiting about half an hour, and finding he did not return, I went to him, when, to my surprise, I found he had fainted from loss of blood. With assistance I had him removed to a sofa—the hœmorrhage returned, and I was not

able to subdue it for more than three hours, during which time he lost a considerable quantity of blood. I would not allow him to be removed till the next day, fearing the hœmorrhage might again return. In about six days after I applied my dressing to the tumours, and in the course of one month he returned home, perfectly cured; and I heard from him some months after, that he had never experienced another attack of hœmorrhage.

I cannot better illustrate these remarks than by quoting the following case from a paper by Sir B. Brodie, in the fifth volume of the *Medical Gazette*:—

"A lady consulted me concerning symptoms which were ascribed to a stricture of the œsophagus. She was unable to swallow the smallest morsel of solid food, so that she was compelled to subsist entirely on liquids, and even these she swallowed with great difficulty. These symptoms had been coming on for upwards of three years. I introduced a full-sized œsophagus

bougie, which entered the stomach without meeting the slightest impediment. From this and other circumstances I was led to conclude that the difficulty of deglutition was merely a symptom of some other disease. The lady's face was bleached, as if she had suffered from repeated attacks of hœmorrhage, and her feet were in some degree œdematous. On inquiry I found she had long laboured under internal piles, from which had taken place repeated discharges of blood. To this last disease, then, I directed my chief attention, prescribing two ounces of the infusion of catechu, with fifteen grains of alum, to be used cold, as a lavement, every morning; and at the same time a solution of the sulphate of iron and sulphate of quinine to be taken by the mouth. When this plan had been persevered in for three weeks the piles were much relieved; they no longer protruded externally; there had been no recurrence of hœmorrhage; her cheeks were less pale, and she swallowed with comparative facility. At the end of six weeks more the piles occasioned very little inconvenience; she had lost no more blood, and her general health was much improved."

It is most probable that, in the case of fatal hœmorrhage related by Petit, the tumours were of the varicose kind: they were protruded from within, and after being cut off, the skin around the upper part was drawn up within the rectum. Death took place within a few hours, and the rectum was found full of dark blood.

The vessels from which the blood is effused are doubtless in a preternatural state of excitement, and if the effusion does not cease when the general inflammatory symptoms which preceded the case has subsided, or if it be not alleviated by judicious remedies, great prostration of strength and relaxation of the exhalent vessels must be the necessary consequence, as it then becomes a disease of confirmed debility, cachetic symptoms ensue, and eventually general dropsy terminates the patient's life.

CHAPTER IV.

HŒMORRHOIDAL DISCHARGE AND ITS PERIODICAL RETURN.

The liability of this discharge to return at regular periods is its most peculiar occurrence, and gives it a singular resemblance to the menstrual evacuation in females; and some instances have come under my observation where a periodical discharge of blood from the rectum has alternated with, and succeeded a suppression of menstrual discharge.

There are two kinds of hœmorrhoidal tumours —the one constituting what are usually termed piles, and the other varices, which very materially differ in their structure and appearance. The former, which are much the most common, are first observed in the form of small fleshy tubercles, and when situate within the anus, or de-

scending from the rectum, are usually of a pale red or brownish colour, and to the finger have a soft spungy feel; but when externally situated, they feel more elastic, and have a sort of transparent appearance, which arises from the nature of the skin with which they are covered, and the state of the blood or other serous fluid in their central cavities.

The increase of these tumours is rather by elongation than globular expansion, and they sometimes extend to an enormous size, from the quantity of blood effused into their centrated cavity acquiring more permanent solidity, forming a source of most painful inconvenience, and, by being protruded, become inflamed and ulcerated, and generally occasion prolapsus of the anus.

Such is the result of my observations on the general character and structure of those tumours, usually termed piles, and which the generality of practitioners have erroneously considered to be dilated veins.

I will here relate the following case:—

Mrs. ——, aged 45, had been more than ten years afflicted with what she considered piles, without suffering any great pain. They always protruded when the bowels were relieved, and she could easily return them, until one day, after having a motion, she found them so large that she could not replace them. On the following day I was sent for to see her, and I found her in a miserable state, on her knees by the side of her bed. There were four large tumours, one about the size of a walnut, and the other three rather smaller. The inflammation was very great; she could not even allow me to touch the part. I immediately sent for eighteen leeches, and applied them myself round the rectum; they bled very freely, and in about an hour and a half the tumours returned. I desired her to keep very quiet, and told her when she felt a desire for a motion to send for me. On the following morning I received a message to go to her immediately; when I arrived she had just had a motion, and I found, by using very little pressure, that the

parts returned. Every day she continued to improve, and on the fifth day I advised her to allow me to apply my dressing, which would have given her permanent relief, but she declined, feeling, as she said, so well, that she had no fear she should be enabled to return the parts as before. When I left, I ordered her to take occasionally six drachms of castor oil.

If the tumours here described had been removed with the knife, I question much whether the hœmorrhage would not have endangered her life.

Hœmorrhoidal varices materially differ in many respects when compared with common hœmorrhoidal tumours, already described, although they frequently arise from the same cause, and may exist at the same time with the others. Their form and appearance are very different from the other tumours, being rounder and having broader bases; their colour is darker and bluish; they feel more soft and elastic to the touch; have no spontaneous disposition to bleed, except from

injury or accidental rupture; and when perceptibly decreased by the pressure of the finger, soon resume their previous state; nor are they liable to periodical decrease and enlargement.

From their distension being more gradually effected, and without those sympathetic symptoms which are more or less apparent in the development of the other hœmorrhoidal tumours, the state of the veins is seldom ascertained until the varices have made considerable progress; and this disposition of the hœmorrhoidal veins to become dilated shows the absolute necessity of accurately distinguishing the real nature of all tumours about the rectum before surgical means can be employed to remove them without a certainty of producing the most alarming or fatal hœmorrhage.

When hœmorrhoidal tumours have formed, they usually increase in size, according to the recurrence and renewed vigour of the periodical attack; and those tumours which were originally within the rectum are frequently forced without

the anus, acquiring an enormous size, and forming adhesions by which their return is impeded, and if replaced, are again protruded as foreign bodies to the rectum. From the disposition of these tumours to vascular action, the pressure of the sphincter muscles, and the injury they receive in the passing of hardened fœces, violent inflammation and most excruciating pains are produced, which often terminates in suppuration and sloughing in the tumours.

I cannot better illustrate the excessive violence of such cases than by relating the following case:—

Mr. ——, aged 47, had for a long time experienced much suffering from tumours within the rectum, and at the regular period of their becoming enlarged, he was seized with a most violent pain and throbbing in the rectum, quick pulse, and other local and general symptoms of irritation. He described his sufferings to be dreadful since his bowels were moved last; his face was distorted with pain, and he could not

endure the slightest movement of the body, nor any one to move about his chamber, without expressing his excessive agony by loud and reiterated shrieks. I ordered twelve leeches to be applied round the rectum, and a fomentation of camomile flowers and poppy heads after the leeches came off. On the following day, after the bowels had been relieved, I examined the part, when I found a copious discharge of matter, which had given him very great relief. In a few days I was enabled to apply my dressing, and in less than eight weeks he considered himself perfectly cured.

The following letter I received from him previously to his leaving town :—

" Montague Street, Portman Square,
30th Sept. 1831.

" Dear Sir,

" In justice to you, myself, and the public, I feel bound to acknowledge the great benefit I have derived from your surgical skill and attention, which have almost entirely eradicated a disease under which I have suffered during the

last *ten* years; and I have no hesitation in thus publicly avowing that I have received more benefit from you during the short time I have been under your care, than from the advice of several of the most eminent professional men in England and many of the capitals of the Continent.

"You have my full permission to make use of this, as an encouragement to any person who may be suffering under similar complaints to mine, and who may be fortunate enough to place themselves under your care.

"I remain, dear Sir,
"Your obliged and faithful servant,
"S. S. C ——."

The foregoing remarks apply almost exclusively to the complicated swellings about the rectum, consequently persons who are suffering even slightly should consult their medical attendant early.

A supposition has prevailed with various writers

on hœmorrhoidal diseases, that they are frequently hereditary, and my own practical experience has fully confirmed to me that many families are much more generally subject to them than others; but whether that circumstance arises from a general predisposition, or a similarity of conformation descending from parent to child, which may contribute to produce the existing cause of those complaints, may be doubtful.

Many authors have also arrived at a conclusion that the influence of climate, temperature, and atmosphere, conduce to render hœmorrhoidal complaints more prevalent in some countries than others, and that in eastern countries such complaints are more frequent than in any other; but, in my opinion, their prevalency arises more from the kind of food and peculiar habits of different nations, which produce an indolent and torpid state of the bowels: as, for instance, the allowed frequency of hœmorrhoidal disease amongst the Turks (which I have had ample opportunity of verifying from patients in the Turkish Embassy) may doubtlessly be traced to

their peculiar diet and general indolent habits, such as excessive indulgence, and sitting nearly all day on warm soft ottomans.

In some cases a proper attention to diet and beverage, and to promoting a regular action of the bowels, will be an important advantage to the patient in such disease; and if possessing a moderate share of constitutional health, without being very much advanced in age, I think I may confidently presume to assure a perfect and speedy cure, with very little pain or inconvenience, from my treatment.

Amongst the remedies that are generally given in hœmorrhoidal diseases, cream of tartar and milk of sulphur form a very good medicine, combined with lenitive electuary. The following is what I prescribe:—One ounce of milk of sulphur, half an ounce of cream of tartar, one ounce and a half of lenitive electuary, and a sufficient quantity of simple syrup to form an electuary; one tea-spoonful to be taken night and morning.

Very frequently the tumours cannot be returned within the rectum, because there is some mechanical hindrance. They then continue to swell, one or more acquire a livid colour, resembling a dark grape, and in some cases the circulation is so far interrupted that mortification takes place, as the following case will explain :—

About eighteen years ago I was sent for to see a lady residing at Brompton. On examination I found the bowel had been protruded for more than eighteen hours—several medical gentlemen having tried in vain to return it. I found there were several tumours, and one was in a state of mortification. I immediately removed it, and ordered eighteen leeches to be applied round the rectum, and in about two hours the bowel returned. I then ordered her an opiate draught, and on the following day, when I saw her, the bowels had been relieved, and the part had returned with very little trouble to her. I saw her for several days after, during which time her health so much improved, that on the sixth day after my first visit I was enabled to apply my

dressing, and in the course of six weeks the whole of the tumours were removed, and I am happy to say she felt herself perfectly cured.

Whenever hœmorrhoidal tumours have become large and painful by being frequently protruded without the anus, which renders them liable to injury and ulceration, I should strongly recommend their removal as speedily as possible; and the daily application of the rectum bougie, at a proper time, would very soon complete the cure.

The symptoms of hœmorrhoidal congestion which gradually supervene are—local determination of blood, sensations of weight, fulness, aching and heat about the anus, the aching pains often extending to the loins, the thighs, and round the lower region of the belly; all which local uneasiness is much increased when, and for some time after, the bowels are relieved; and the pressure thereby caused may occasion bleeding to be added to these symptoms. When fever and shiverings are concurrent with congestion and hœmorrhage, which is sometimes the case, the

patient generally finds those symptoms much relieved by a copious effusion of blood from the rectum; but it is only to be considered as a temporary relief, and the congestion which induces the bleeding is very liable to produce much structural disease. Should the patient be disposed to apoplexy, or to the spitting of blood, an occasional or moderate hœmorrhage from the intestine should be very carefully interfered with. In some cases excessive hœmorrhage is the only local symptom, and not at all proportioned to the local congestion; yet the source of such bleeding is the same, the blood transuding through the thin membranous tubes of the vessels without their being in any way ruptured, and the discharge of blood sometimes proceeds from one part and then from another of the internal vascular surface. External or skin piles, which are entirely covered with the common integument, are formed quite below, or without the intestine.

There are also marginal piles which are one-half covered with skin, and the other half with

mucous membrane of the intestine, from their being wholly or nearly without the sphincter muscle. Piles are sometimes round, oblong, or flattened; sometimes attached by a broad or slender bases: others are merely little pendulous flaps, and in all their varieties are of more or less vascularity.

The external piles very rarely produce bleeding, and the hœmorrhage from internal piles proceeds more from the common disposition of their surrounding surface to produce bleeding than from the piles themselves. Whenever piles are produced by, or participate in congestion, they are the principal point of pain.

In all their varieties they may come on either gradually or suddenly, and although greater or less uneasiness is always present, the attacks and remissions of pain are always very fluctuating.

Internal piles often protrude externally, by being forced down whenever the bowels are relieved; but from their difference in appearance,

softness, and place of attachment, they cannot be easily mistaken for external.

The situation of internal piles is usually near the orifice of the bowel. They are pendulous tumours, which seem to grow from the inner surface of the intestine, appearing to be the growth of the mucous membrane, with all its natural vascularity, and liable to be extruded in proportion to the turgid state of the vessels. In many cases the mucous membrane seems a mass of compressed vessels and lymph, forming a firm, hard, round, brown-coloured tumour, from half to an inch in diameter, which being protruded with a portion of the folds of the lining membrane every time the bowels are moved, cause much variable pain and uneasiness, and mucous and bleeding discharge, as well as much care, time, and difficulty to return it within the anus, and if not soon replaced, the pressure of the sphincter muscle upon the protruded part much increases the tension, heat, and discharge.

In cases where those tumours have much less

thickening, and consist of enlarged folds of the lining membrane, they produce much the same symptoms, and when protruded by the action of the bowels, require the same care to be replaced. The latter protrusion may be liable to be considered as only a prolapsus of the lining membrane; but it is generally more than that, being the protrusion of elongation and growth, and much more allied to hœmorrhoidal tumours than real prolapsus. These inward tumours never waste away, but continue a permanent source of suffering, becoming casually swollen, and when their protrusion cannot be readily returned by the patient, they excite so much extreme pain, inflammation, and fever, that their timely removal should not be neglected.

External piles are usually situated laterally to the orifice of the intestine, and vary from the size of a small grape to the extent of half an inch in height and breadth, and an inch in length; but sometimes they are more flattened. In their angry stage they are tense and extremely painful, while at other times they resemble soft flaps of

membrane and skin. Their angry state continues for many days, causing the patient great suffering and inconvenience, alternating from a less sensible to a more painful state.

Marginal or anal piles are situated exactly at the extremity of the intestine, where the mucous lining of it is contiguous to the skin, so as to have the side next the intestine covered with mucous membrane, and the outside part covered with the common integument or skin. In their angry state, they are tense, hard, blue, moveable tumours, varying in magnitude from a small to a very large grape, very tender on pressure, and causing continued aching and stiffness in the part. The larger they are the more pain they occasion, because more of their internal part comes within the pressure of the sphincter muscle, which renders them a constant source of pain. In their quiet state they seem like small folds at the external edge of the sphincter, but they soon fill again, resuming their exquisite sensibility, and giving renewed uneasiness. These are liable to be mistaken for obtruded internal

tumours. Sometimes one large elastic, but tense, heated, painful, and throbbing kind of large anal tumour (as large as a chesnut), will occupy one side of the orifice of the bowel, neither inclining towards the bowel nor outwardly. It much resembles an abscess or a protruded internal tumour, but if treated as the former, or attempted to be relieved by forcing it within the sphincter muscle, serious consequences would be likely to ensue.

The conflicting opinions of various practical authors as to the treatment of internal hœmorrhoids, and the alarming results which they record to have been produced by removing them by excision and other means which have been used, seem to involve their general treatment in much apprehensive uncertainty. To remove internal hœmorrhoidal tumours by incision may be advocated by some as an easy and prompt means; but the serious hœmorrhage which it is liable to occasion renders it an operation of very dangerous, and even fatal consequences, as after manual pressure and every means have been employed to suppress the effusion of blood, which may be sup-

posed to have succeeded, the most profuse bleeding frequently commences again within the rectum, without oozing from the anus, and being voided in dark clotted or feculent fluid, by the desire it creates to go to stool, the attendant may be little aware of the fatal situation of the patient until he sinks under exhaustion from loss of blood. Amidst several other cases, Sir Astley Cooper gives his high authority of the danger of this operation, by relating one of a Scottish nobleman who perished as above stated, and the like candour in other practitioners would, no doubt, have supplied numerous other instances of its fatal and alarming consequences. Another eminent writer on the subject has stated to have been under the necessity of touching the cut surfaces with a hot iron to suppress the most frightful hœmorrhage. Throughout my long and successful practice, however, I have invariably avoided all internal excision, having seen numerous instances of its dangerous effects.

CHAPTER V.

OF THE CAUSE, SYMPTOMS, AND TREATMENT OF STRICTURE OF THE RECTUM.

The causes and symptoms of stricture of the rectum are frequently very obscure; but whatever tends to produce irritation in the mucous lining of the alimentary canal, may be considered to be the remote cause of stricture, and the most obvious symptoms are those which proceed from obstruction, or are incidental to a change of structure in the part. The symptoms and progress of the latter are generally more mysterious than the former, being scarcely perceptible to the patient until it is become malignant, when, in either case, the symptoms become more violent as the contraction increases, and the patient's life depends upon the practitioner's timely and correct discrimination of them from similar symptoms produced by some other complaints of the rectum.

The late Sir Charles Bell, in his excellent work on Strictures, &c., has related a case where, being about to perform an operation for fistula in ano, found so contracted a stricture that it would not admit the end of his little finger; and that in another instance, having occasion to puncture the bladder by the rectum, his finger was obstructed by a very narrow stricture; yet neither of these patients was aware of the symptoms being produced by such a cause. I am very frequently consulted by persons who are labouring under fistula, and often find on examination that they have likewise a bad stricture.

As strictures of the rectum vary materially in their nature according to the length of time they have existed, so also do their symptoms vary; but an obstruction to the free passage of the fœces is a general symptom in all its forms, and a moderate portion of attention, practical experience, and a careful examination of the rectum, cannot fail to detect its true character.

In June, 1828, I was sent for to see a noble-

man who was suffering very much from a contracted state of the rectum. He described his case very accurately: he had been scarified with the lancet round the rectum, yet he experienced no relief. I examined the rectum, when to my surprise I found some difficulty in introducing my little finger. I told him it would be necessary to have the rectum bougie introduced daily, and after I had passed the bougie five times he expressed himself very considerably relieved, and on the tenth day from my first visit I received the following note:—

"Lord ——— finds himself quite recovered from his complaint. He will be glad to receive Mr. Van Butchell to-morrow morning at the usual hour; he conceives, however, that Mr. V. B. will not find it necessary to do anything further in the way of cure."

I informed him, however, that he was not cured, and I was certain he would experience a relapse if the bougie were not continued for some time longer; but he said he was anxious to go to

Doncaster to see his race-horses, and when he returned, if he felt the least inconvenience, he would send for me. In about three weeks I received a note, requesting I would call on him at the usual time. I did so, and continued attending him till he was perfectly cured. When I took my leave of him he expressed his gratitude, and gave me full permission to make use of his name.

It is astonishing the very great relief some persons feel from the introduction of the bougie only a few times. Patients frequently remark to me how much better they feel after the bougie has only been introduced six or seven times; and sometimes they discontinue their visits altogether, considering themselves perfectly cured.

Strictures of the rectum are sometimes from six to seven inches from the verge of the anus; but their usual situation is from two and a half to four inches from the orifice of the rectum, and different parts of the colon are liable to occasional contractions of the same kind.

The symptoms of stricture are developed by the appearance of the fœces, which are voided in flattened, small, and narrowed portions. From the difficulty the patient experiences in passing the fœces through the contracted part, a very inadequate quantity to relieve the bowels is passed at a time, and the effort has to be frequently repeated during the day before they are sufficiently evacuated.

From the thickening which is always concomitant with stricture of the rectum, being produced by inflammation, and from the irritation which the more forcible pressure of the fœces produces in the mucous lining of the stricture, by passing through the narrowed portion of the canal, it is excessively sensible.

In common cases of stricture of the rectum, a judicious use of the bougie is the most approved treatment, and generally produces satisfactory results. A bougie of the size which is found to easily fill the stricture should be carefully passed through it every day, or every second or third

day, as the irritability of the patient will permit; and after each introduction it should be allowed to be retained from fifteen to twenty minutes. The absorption caused by the pressure of the bougie will gradually enable the patient to have the size of the bougie increased, and the rectum will at length be restored to its original state; but after that has been accomplished, an occasional application of the bougie should not be too suddenly neglected; and local irritation being one great cause of the formation and increase of the contraction, the injury which must consequently be done to the part by passing of indurated excrement, or the irritation which is produced by purging should be carefully avoided as much as possible, by occasionally taking some mild aperient to keep the bowels gently and regularly open; and this purpose will be best effected by having recourse to such aperients as the experience of each patient has found to act moderately on the bowels, provided they are not compounded of aloes or other resinous purgatives, which act principally upon the rectum.

The late Sir Charles Bell mentions a case which came under his observation, where the tumour formed by the fundus of the uterus having fallen back into the hollow of the sacrum, was mistaken for, and treated as a stricture of the rectum.

"I was called," he states, "to give my opinion of the condition of a lady after she had been three years under the use of bougies. She was very ingenious, and with her pencil she explained everything she felt, and all that she had been ordered to do; but I urged the necessity of examination, and the possibility of there being some mistake; and, in fact, I found that the obstruction of the rectum arose from the fundus of the uterus having fallen into the hollow of the sacrum. Against this had the bougie been pushed regularly for years, but happily without any further bad consequence than the expensive attendance of the surgeon."

CHAPTER VI.

CONTRACTION OF THE ANUS.

This condition of the anus may be produced by a gradual thickening and induration of the fine skin within the anus, or by an undue contraction of the muscular fibres which surround it, as from those fibres of the sphincter muscles being over-strained and injured by too great a distension of the anus in the passing of indurated fœces, they become unduly contracted, and pain and tenesmus are caused by any means which are used to distend them.

Such affections of the anus have generally been found to have been preceded by costiveness and pain, and difficulty in voiding the excrement, which is usually of a flattened form; and if the patient's delicacy should induce the medical

attendant to prescribe, instead of examining the part affected, the symptoms may be supposed to arise from piles or constipation, and purgatives may give a temporary relief, to afterwards irritate and increase the symptoms of the complaint. Further symptoms of this contraction are — frequent tenesmus, pain during and after stool, retention of urine, sympathetic affections of the urethra, &c. The pain usually comes on for a short time after the bowels have been moved, and, unless the patient has another motion in the interval, does not return until the next day; or it may be renewed by the most trivial causes, such as the passing of wind, unusual exertion, and, in irritable constitutions, by passions of the mind, or whatever may conduce to either local or general excitement; and in some cases it assumes a periodical character, by returning every morning, but more usually in the evening, even when the bowels have not been disturbed. The paroxysms of pain are sometimes intolerably severe, and cause the strongest expressions of agony.

The treatment of this contraction must be according to its nature and immediate cause; but if hœmorrhoidal tumours or excrescences have been discovered, they should immediately be removed, as they act as foreign bodies, and invariably create irritation; and in cases connected with thickening and induration, leeches and fomentations should be applied to remove inflammation as an immediate cause, and a torpid state of the bowels should be corrected as a more remote one. When inflammation is not evidently connected with this contraction of the anus, the treatment is rather uncertain in its results, so far as regards the experience and conflicting opinions of the best practical writers; and their means of cure have been according to their varied suppositions respecting the cause of contraction, some having considered fissures of the inner membrane of the anus to be the cause, while others have deemed them to be only a consequence of it.

The opinion of Professor Boyer seems at one time to have been favourable to the former of

these suppositions. He has stated several cases which he cured by dividing the sphincter muscle where the fissure could be included in the excision, except when situate at the anterior part of the anus. This is a very severe operation, even when the Professor had failed to relieve the patient's suffering by any other means; and as I have known some instances of this operation producing more injury than benefit, by patients applying to me because the incision had not healed; and as I believe the complaint may sometimes proceed from constitutional causes, I should consider the operation too doubtful, and even dangerous in its results, to be practised with propriety.

CHAPTER VII.

SPASMODIC STRICTURE OF THE RECTUM.

The slow and insidious formation of stricture, or contraction of the rectum, renders it difficult to ascertain whether it has been a primary or secondary origin of other complaints, such as fissure, hœmorrhoidal tumours or fistula, &c., which are occasionally present when it is first discovered; and the cause or origin of spasmodic contraction of the rectum is still more difficult to be explained, because it sometimes exists to a very distressing degree, when the most careful examination of the rectum cannot detect any of the above causes for its production, as well as when one or more of them are present. Fissure or abrasion of the mucous lining of the rectum is the more usual attendant on such spasmodic contraction; but though they sometimes exist

together, yet the most distressing cases of ulcerated abrasion are frequently unattended with any spasmodic contraction. The patient complains of great suffering about the vicinity of the anus, and cannot endure a sitting position unless protected from pressure by resting on the hip; the bowels cannot be evacuated without great difficulty and pain, which then comes on and continues for some hours, attended with irritability about the bladder, heat in the urethra, continual desire to make water, and much uncomfortable sensation of fulness in the perineum. In alternating from less severe to more aggravated symptoms, which is generally the case in this complaint, it is preceded by a discharge of matter or blood from the rectum.

Other characteristic symptoms of spasmodic stricture of the rectum are, that the external sphincter is often so excessively contracted as to draw in and alter the usual appearance of the anus, and almost obliterate a trace of its orifice; that the most gentle introduction of the finger or any instrument cannot be effected without

difficulty, and causing present and long-continued suffering to the patient; and those means which usually afford relief to other strictures of the rectum, only aggravate the spasmodic, by causing the muscles of the anus to contract more strongly.

With these symptoms it seems plausible that they should be the effect of some internal irritation of the connected part; but when no perceptible alteration of structure can possibly be discovered, their origin and continuance can only be attributed to a nervous and general irritability of system, and which may also have constituted a predisposition to their occurrence, or they may be the effects of neuralgia or tic-douloureux.

CHAPTER VIII.

FISSURE OF THE RECTUM.

This complaint usually originates in a rent of the mucous membrane of the rectum from the passing of hard fœces, and does not heal, but becomes and remains an oblong ulcer, from a quarter to three quarters of an inch across the rectum. The ulcer is generally on the back part of the intestine, immediately above the sphincter muscle, and when too long neglected, the edges of the ulcer become indurated and raised, and is a very troublesome complaint.

Spasmodic contraction of the rectum is not an unusual symptom of ulceration in that organ; but the more usual symptoms are soreness and sense of weight about the rectum at all times, pain during the evacuation of the bowels, which

gradually becomes more severe and continues for some time after. In some instances, patients have consulted me who had this complaint from the injudicious use of the knife in cutting away tumours or excrescences within the rectum; and it is sometimes caused by laceration of the mucous membrane of the bowel, from too forcible introduction of any instrument, such mechanical injuries having been known to tear through and include the whole structure of the intestine.

CHAPTER IX.

WARTS WITHIN THE ANUS.

These warty excrescences are a disease of the fine skin within the verge of the anus. They are sometimes very numerous, and cause such unpleasant symptoms as to much resemble cancer. This complaint is attended with so much degree of stricture in the anus that the finger which is introduced with difficulty, draws blood, and the warts cause the surface to feel hard and rough, which give a ragged appearance to the fœces in passing over them. The patient complains of pain and difficulty during evacuation, and is annoyed by continued irritation and discharge from the anus. The cancerous symptoms of this disease render it a dangerous one to be too long neglected or improperly treated, being likely to become a schirrous contraction of the anus, with

cancerous and incurable ulcerations. In fact, all diseases of the anus and rectum are of such progressive nature in their complication, that timely application for relief would save those who are afflicted with them from much danger and suffering, and render their cure less doubtful and more easy to the practitioner.

CHAPTER X.

FISTULA IN ANO.

The great disposition of the adjacent parts of the anus to abscess may be attributed to the want of support which the surrounding cellular tissue affords to the vessels under the pressure of venous blood to the part, which the pressure of the fœces may cause to accumulate in the capillaries, its dependent situation; or a too gross or impoverished state of the blood may conduce to a formation of matter about the rectum; or it may be ascribed to the cellular membrane producing suppuration from irritation, which would have scarcely any effect upon parts of more substantial texture.

Diffused or more circumscribed abscess, which frequently forms near the anus, may be occasioned

by some accidental contusion, or any other injury near the part; or may arise from sitting upon damp seats, general deterioration of health, or a morbid condition of the rectum; and either kind is usually preceded by a greater or less degree of irritative fever and fatiguing restlessness, followed by tension, heat, throbbing pain, and swelling near the anus.

Such abscesses are likewise sometimes caused by the lodgment of fish bones, pins, needles, core of apples, and other indigestible substances that have been accidentally swallowed, which passing from the stomach, become enveloped in the gut immediately above the sphincter muscle.

The diffused or deep-seated abscess gradually makes its way downwards until it entirely surrounds the anus, becoming a large enclosement of matter, and by extended irritation generally adds retention of urine, tenesmus, and diarrhœa, or obstinate costiveness, to the above local and general derangement. On the first appearance of this disease, a part near the anus is swollen

with a circumscribed hardness, and in a short time this hardness becomes red and inflamed, and matter is formed in its centre, the pain being very great, the tumefaction large and exquisitely tender, and often producing a great quantity of matter; deep sloughs are formed, and much injury done to the hœmorrhoidal vessels and parts about the rectum.

The circumscribed or smaller abscess is formed in masses of hardened tissue in smaller or larger gatherings near the anus, and is attended with local heat, pain, redness, and swelling, without much constitutional derangement; but in some cases an obstinate costiveness is attendant on this kind of abscess, frequently accompanied with a painful distension and inflammation of the hœmorrhoidal vessels, both internally and externally, and the whole habit is much disordered by the quantity of hard fœces contained within the large intestine; and although its local symptoms are not so violent as in the previous case, and the matter discharged is much less in quantity, it is sometimes very offensive and unhealthy,

and the crude cavity of the abscess has a very unfavourable appearance.

In both these cases the abscess is often much confined to the skin and cellular membrane beneath it; but their original cause may very frequently be traced to be more or less implicated with affections of the rectum—such as hœmorrhoidal tumours, ulcerations, strictures, &c., and whenever they are discovered to be present, should always be considered to be the immediate cause of abscess and its continuance. Experience has left beyond doubt that irritation and inflammation within the rectum may often produce suppurations in the external parts around it, as well as other natural passages, which is fully elucidated by the following extract from the comparing observations of the late Sir Charles Bell on the subject:—

"I do not," he observes, "find it distinctly stated that the inflammation within any of the natural tubes or passages will produce abscess externally. Yet we have abscess external to the

fauces, from inflammation of the membrane of the throat; we have suppuration around the cartilages of the larynx, from inflammation of the inner membrane; so we have abscess by the side of the lachrymal duct, and by the side of the urethra in the perineum, from irritation and inflammation existing within these tubes. These are so many analogies with the suppurations which arise about the anus from irritation within. We must consider that the cellular membrane is many degrees more disposed to the formation of abscess than any other texture; and as an inflamed gland itself will yet produce puss in the surrounding cellular membrane, so the extremity of the rectum, without being the seat of suppuration, will yet cause it in the loose texture which is around it."

To this circumstance the general treatment of abscess has, therefore, to accord, and every attention should be directed to the state of the intestine, as well as bringing such suppurations to a favourable progress and termination. Inflammation in the vicinity or substance of hœmorrhoidal

tumours, and small particles of hard feculent matter becoming entangled in the folds of the mucous membrane, are liable to produce suppuration ; and, besides, chronic and other abscesses sometimes form in the region of the anus, from more remote source, and may, by neglect and the matter descending to the verge of the anus, become implicated with the intestine.

There is also a much milder kind of smaller abscess, which arises only from cutaneous irritation and acrid secretions between the nates, produced by violent exercise in hot weather.

The place where abscess points is sometimes at a distance from or near the anus, and when matured and allowed to burst, either by the matter forcing its way through the skin or into the intestine, the cavity of the abscess only contracts to a limited extent, leaving a canal or fistula, which is very indisposed to close, and from which a purulent fluid continually exudes. In time, however, the sides of the abscess become more consolidated, and the fistula lined with a thin

smooth tissue, much resembling a mucous membrane. Whatever may be the nature or situation of the abscess, should the matter be too long neglected to be discharged by applying the lancet, it either, by corroding its way makes a hole into the cavity of the intestine, or through the exterior skin without the anus, and sometimes through both, either by one orifice or more; and in those cases where the matter escapes through one or more openings in the skin only, are called blind external fistulæ; those which have one or more openings into the intestine, without any external opening, are called blind internal fistulæ; and those which have an opening into the intestine and through the internal skin, are named complete fistulæ; but the more frequent are the blind external and the complete.

Sometimes the external opening of fistulæ is some distance from the verge of the anus, and tending inwardly passes through or between the external sphincter, and then ascending, passes through the fibres of the internal sphincter. In

some fistulæ their sinuses are nearly straight, and others burrow in a devious course from their commencement to their aperture near the anus; but their direction and situation vary, and the surrounding surface becoming hard, renders their trace more difficult, and their orifice is sometimes concealed between the folds of the mucous membrane; but on the finger of the examiner being pressed on the induration which usually remains where the original abscess was, matter is generally discharged from the anus, or the air from the cavity of the abscess is distinctly heard to pass into the intestine, and the thin fluid which oozes from their apertures is sometimes so fœtid as to excoriate the parts near their orifice, which frequently become too contracted to be sufficient for the discharge, and the lodgment of the matter causes renewed abscess, &c.

In some fistulous cases, the inflammation and thickening of the extremity of the intestine nearly approaches to stricture: there is much fulness in the hœmorrhoidal veins, the parts around the anus are denuded and sloughy from

suppuration of the recent abscess, and besides, their communication with the intestine, callous fistulæ sometimes run in an extended direction towards the hips or the perineum, presenting a formidable aspect to an inexperienced practitioner; and their varied nature and character require a different treatment to effect a safe and permanent cure without the patient's horror of an operation with the knife.

Louis XIV. suffered from fistula in ano, and being naturally unwilling to undergo the operation of cutting, which his medical attendants assured him was necessary, listened to various proposals for curing the disease without having recourse to the knife. Instead of trying these methods on his own person, however, he collected a great number of his subjects who laboured under the same infirmity, and caused the proposed experiments to be tried on them. Some of them he sent to the waters of Bareges, others to those of Bourbon, and many more he shut up in rooms provided with every thing that could be suggested for the purpose in view.

At the end of a year, finding that not a single patient had been cured, his Majesty yielded to necessity, and permitted his surgeon, M. Felix, to perform all the incisions which he judged proper.

The importance attributed to its performance, as formerly practised, may be estimated from the number of medical men who were present on this occasion, together with the amount of their remuneration. Besides the surgeon and assistant-surgeon, there were two physicians, four apothecaries, and an apprentice, and the sum total of their fees was £14,700.*

A disordered state of constitution may act conjointly with the above causes to favour the formation of fisulæ in ano, which require attention in their mode of cure, being frequently

* M. Felix, 50,000 crowns = £6,000.
Dr. Daguin, 100,000 livres = 4,000.
Dr. Fagon, 24,000 do. = 1,000.
M. Bessiere, 40,000 do. = 1,500.
Four Apothecaries (each 12,000 livres = £500) £2,000.
M. Raye (apprentice to M. Felix), 400 pistoles = 200.

attended with a torpid and irregular state of the bowels, and a dryness and deficiency of secretions in the rectum. The symptoms of internal fistula are — painful tenesmus, hard fœces are passed with difficulty and streaked with matter, after which the pain subsides for a time, from the contents of the abscess being pressed into the rectum; but the patient has a continued dull kind of uneasiness, which increases by being long in a sitting position, and on examination the intestine pits on its diseased side, and its membrane falls in upon the cavity beneath.

Fistula in ano may properly be defined to be a hollow deep sinus, its sides and cavity indurated, lined with a thin membrane, without the slightest disposition to heal, and discharging a thin unhealthy fluid.

CASES.

CASE I.

In May, 1824, a tradesman from Horsleydown consulted me for a complicated case of fistula and piles. He had been afflicted about five years, and had undergone an operation without receiving any benefit. On examination I found a fistula and a tumour; I dressed the tumour, and on the third day it came away; and, as soon as it was healed, I dressed the fistula. In a few days afterwards he expressed himself very much relieved, and in ten weeks from my first visit he was perfectly cured.

In the month of August the patient addressed to me the following letter:—

" Horsleydown, Southwark, August, 1824.

" Dear Sir,

" It is with a sense of gratitude and obligation that I take up my pen to acknowledge the benefit that I have derived from your professional assistance. After having suffered for upwards of five years the most excruciating torments from internal piles, and during the latter eighteen months with a fistula (having the piles and fistula at the same time); and although having at various times had the advice of many of the faculty, viz., Drs. B——, L——, and M——, I could never get any relief until I applied to you, when, after only ten weeks' attendance, I once more feel myself in possession of that ease in body which I at one time expected never to regain. Since I left you, I have not perceived the least symptoms of the complaint, and I shall be most happy to bear testimony to any inquiry that may be made respecting the cure you have performed upon me.

" I am, dear Sir,

" Yours very respectfully,

" W. C——."

CASE II.

In April, 1825, a gentleman from Cheltenham consulted me for a painful disease of the rectum. He stated that at times he had suffered severely for many days together, and that he was unable to sit. The medical gentleman who examined him three days previously to his seeing me, assured him it was impossible for any person to effect a cure without cutting; he, however, had so great dread of the operation, that he told me he would sooner die than submit to it. When I examined his case, I found a fistulous opening about two inches from the rectum, and on introducing the probe I found it grate against something like bone. I desired him to apply hot poultices five or six times a day, and on the following day he told me he had suffered very great pain. Upon examination, I found a small piece of bone forcing itself out of the sinus, which I removed, and he expressed himself much relieved. On the day after I examined the fistula again, and I found it entered the gut about two inches; on the following day I applied my dressing, and in five weeks he returned home perfectly cured.

CASE III.

In April, 1825, I was requested to visit a lady residing in the neighbourhood of Hanover Square, who was a great sufferer from disease of the rectum. I found her labouring under stricture, tumours, and ulceration, to a considerable extent; so much so that she had been confined to her bed for nearly three weeks, and was unable to walk or scarcely to set her right foot to the ground. I ascertained that her bowels were usually confined, and that she had, previously to my attendance, been taking much medicine that had been prescribed for her, which only weakened her constitution without alleviating her complaint in the slightest degree. Her case being one of a more aggravated nature than I usually have to attend, in consequence of her unwillingness to make it known, required several weeks of the strictest attention before the disease under which she was labouring could be eradicated. Eventually, however, she was perfectly cured, and I received from her the following letter :—

"Sir,

"Enclosed is the sum I am indebted to you for the cure of my very painful and distressing complaint, and I regret extremely that it is not in my power to treble the amount, feeling sensible that it would even then be a very inadequate compensation for the skill you have displayed, and kind attention you have bestowed on my complaint, which I and all around me fully expected would terminate my existence.

"As I shall at all times consider it a great pleasure to testify my sense of the obligation I am under to you, I trust you will feel no hesitation in referring any female to me you may think proper, and beg you will believe me, with much gratitude,

"Your obliged servant."

CASE IV.

In the same month, a gentleman from Bath, 60 years of age, consulted me for a fistula, with which he had been afflicted 18 years. It was a

simple case, only penetrating the gut about one inch. He was very much delighted when I told him I could cure him without cutting, and assured me there was not a surgeon of eminence in London that he had not consulted, all of whom agreed that it was impossible for him to be cured without submitting to an operation. I prescribed for him the usual medicine, and on the next day I applied my dressing, and when I saw him the following day and told him he had no more pain to undergo, he seemed perfectly astonished. On the fourth day he came to my house, and continued his attendance every day until the 1st of November, by which time he was perfectly cured.

CASE V.

In June, 1826, a professional gentleman, from Edinburgh, consulted me for a very painful prolapsus of the rectum, and gave the following history of his complaint:—

He was habitually costive, and lost a great

quantity of blood whenever he had an evacuation, which he was obliged to solicit by the use of purgative medicines. At the time of passing his stool there were several hœmorrhoidal tumours protruded from the gut, which could not be returned for many hours, and during this time he was in very great pain, which lasted until he was able to return them.

When I examined him, I found the sphincter muscle so rigid that it was with difficulty I could introduce my finger. I ordered him to take a draught in the morning, and when the bowels were relieved to send for me. On examination, I found three tumours—one very large, and the other two about the size of a nutmeg. I advised him to let me apply my dressing, which he consented to. Accordingly, on the following day I dressed the largest, which came away on the third day, and he expressed himself very much relieved. I saw him daily, and he assured me the bowels now acted very differently to what they had usually done, as he could now have his motion with comparative ease. I advised him to have

the other tumours dressed without delay, and he came to my house on the following day for that purpose. After the bowels were relieved I applied my dressing, and the pain was so trifling that he walked home afterwards. In a few days the other tumour was dressed in the same way, and in seven weeks from the day he first consulted me he returned home perfectly cured.

Previously to his leaving town I received from him the following letter :—

" St. Martin-le-Grand, London, 24th August, 1826.

" My dear Sir,

" I beg leave to return you my most grateful thanks for the complete cure you have effected on me in the short space of two months, the distressing complaint of hœmorrhoidal tumours with which I had been afflicted for more than seven years, after having consulted several eminent surgeons, from whom I derived little benefit, previous to my introduction to you by whom my cure was effected, induces me from sentiments of gratitude to write to you on the subject, to

testify to your superior treatment of the above disease. Accept my heartfelt thanks, and believe me,

"My dear Sir,

"Your obliged servant."

CASE VI.

In the same month a retired tradesman, about 60 years of age, consulted me for a fistula. He stated that he had a very great objection to the knife, and understanding that I would cure him without cutting, he was induced to apply to me. I accordingly examined him, and told him I thought his case would take about six weeks to cure. We agreed as to terms, and on the following day I applied my dressing, which came away on the third day, when he expressed himself very much relieved, and within six weeks from my first application he returned home perfectly cured.

CASE VII.

In May, 1827, a tradesman from Rochester,

about 30 years of age, applied to me for a painful disease of the rectum. I found, on examination, a deep-seated fistula, and I assured him, if he could stay in town a month, I would promise him a perfect cure. On the following day I applied my dressing, and in one month he returned home perfectly cured.

CASE VIII.

In May, 1827, I was sent for to see a gentleman, residing in the Kent Road, who was in great pain in consequence of a prolapsus. He said he had been afflicted for more than 15 years, and that he had consulted the first medical men in London, all of whom agreed that no operation could be performed without great risk. Up to this period he generally could return the parts. I ascertained that there were five hœmorrhoidal excrescences—one very large, protruding from the rectum. I prescribed some laxative medicine, and ordered twelve leeches to be applied near the anus, and when I visited him on the following day he expressed himself very much

relieved. On the third day after the bowels were acted upon, I applied my dressing to the largest tumour which came away on the fourth day; and on the tenth day I dressed the second largest, which came away at the usual time; and I continued my attendance on him until the whole of the tumours were cured, which required about six weeks.

CASE IX.

In January, 1828, Mrs. ——, about 45 years of age, the wife of a merchant residing a few miles from town, consulted me in consequence of having long suffered from extreme pain in the rectum, which was greatly aggravated after the bowels were relieved. On examination I found a fistula, which had penetrated the gut about an inch. She informed me that she suffered very much from some tumours, which often protruded when walking. I ordered her my usual medicine, and requested she would see me on the following day, after the bowels were relieved, when I applied my dressing to the tumours. In a few

days afterwards I dressed the fistula, and under my usual treatment succeeded in effecting a perfect cure of her case in seven weeks.

CASE X.

The following case was written by the patient, a clergyman:—

"Lewes, March 11, 1828.

"SIR,

"Having for the last fourteen weeks been almost entirely confined to my bed (from whence, in fact, I am now writing) by a most violent and painful attack of internal piles, I was last week induced to request Mr. Eagles, of Newhaven, to call on me to give me some account of the very wonderful cure he had received from you when labouring under fistula; and, in consequence of the conversation I had with him I cannot help addressing you on the subject of my own most distressing case. The natural reply for you to make will, I am aware, be, 'Come up to town, and let me see you.' I wish most heartily I was able to do so, but unfortunately I can scarcely

get out of my bed. If you could, therefore, send me any thing to effect a cure, or even so far to relieve me as to enable me to get to town, I would most cheerfully remit to you the sum paid by Mr. Eagles. I have had the best advice the country can afford—Surgeon H——, of Lewes; Mr. L——, of Brighton; and all the eminent men, but they cannot afford me the least relief. They pronounce the piles to be entirely external. There is a great deal of fleshy substance down at the sides of the anus, and the inside of the anus is very much inflamed. The pain I suffer after going to stool is of the most excruciating nature; in short, all the medical men consider it to be the worst and most distressing case they ever met with. Let me entreat you, therefore, to take it into your consideration, and rest assured you will not find me ungrateful for any relief you may give me. Pray let me hear from you, and let me again entreat you to send me something to apply to the parts. All expenses incurred I will cause to be paid to you by the Lewes bankers.

"And believe me ever thankful,

"C. H——."

On the 16th of March this gentleman arrived in town, accompanied by his brother, in a travelling carriage. Lodgings were provided for him in the neighbourhood of Grosvenor Square, and I was sent for to see him. He appeared very much distressed from the journey, though they had taken two days to perform it. When I examined the part I detected a blind fistula, an ulcerated gut, and a stricture. His health was much impaired, and the liver was very torpid. I prescribed such medicine as I thought requisite, and in the morning I waited on him again, and was surprised to find him in such good spirits. I attended him twice a day for some weeks; on the forty-fifth day after his arrival he told me he felt so well that he should very much wish to return home if I would allow him, but at my suggestion he remained until the 19th of May. He then left London (wishing to resume his clerical duties), and I gave him instructions how to act for himself.

The following letter I received from him on his return home:—

" Lewes, May 22, 1828.

" My dear Sir,

" You will be glad to hear that I got home without the least fatigue or inconvenience—the people are surprised to see me so well, and the medical men allow that nothing could have ended better.

" Ever faithfully yours,

" C. H."

CASE XI.

In May, 1828, a farmer from Oxfordshire consulted me for a fistula. He stated that his complaint originated in an abscess that had formed about eighteen months ago, near the anus, which had been opened by a very respectable surgeon, but it had never healed. On examination I found a fistula, penetrating the gut about two inches. On the following day I ordered him a draught in the morning, and in the afternoon I applied my dressing; and in one month he returned home perfectly cured.

CASE XII.

In August, 1828, a gentleman consulted me for a very troublesome disease of the rectum. He said he had been some years afflicted, and his complaint was very much aggravated after every motion. I prescribed a draught for him, and requested he would send for me on the following day, immediately after the bowels were relieved. The next morning I attended him, and found that he had three small hœmorrhoidal excrescences. I told him it would require a month's attendance to cure him, to which he agreed, and I accordingly applied my usual dressing. In less than a month he was perfectly cured, and shortly after I received from him the following letter:—

"November, 1828.

"SIR,

"The enclosed is the amount of what I understood you to say you would consider a remuneration for the trouble you have had during your attendance on me. Should there be any mistake, I must beg you to inform me, and I will rectify it on some future occasion.

"On my return from ————, in December, I shall again have the pleasure of seeing you; in the meantime, should you think it necessary to write, you may direct to me, ———— Sussex.

"I beg a line of acknowledgment by the bearer, who has orders to wait. Be assured I have great pleasure in expressing the deep sense I entertain of your skill and attention, and shall gladly avail myself of every opportunity to do you any service I can in the way of your profession.

"I remain your humble servant,

"—— ——."

CASE XIII.

In November, 1828, a gentleman consulted me for a prolapsus ani. On examination I found three excrescences, and told him he must submit to a slight dressing, to which he consented, and in one month he was perfectly cured.

Shortly after I received from him the following letter:—

"Greenwich, Kent, 29th January, 1829.

"My dear Sir,

"I beg leave to repeat my grateful thanks for the comfort I daily experience from the total eradication of the sufferings I so long endured, and it will ever be my study to recommend and applaud your surgical skill, which was so efficacious in the disastrous case from which I endured agony beyond description for fifteen years.

"I am your obedient servant,

"B. C——."

CASE XIV.

In April, 1829, a gentleman in his 55th year, of a spare frame of body and temperate habits, requested my opinion respecting a very tormenting complaint of the rectum, from which he had suffered for many years. He had consulted many eminent surgeons, and subjected himself to several painful operations, without gaining any benefit. I proposed seeing him on the following day, immediately after the bowels were relieved; and on examination I found his rectum filled with small

tumours, several protruding from the anus, and very tender to the touch. I prescribed a laxative medicine, and proposed applying my dressing on the following day, to which he readily consented. When the dressing came away, he assured me he found himself very much relieved. I continued my visits until he was perfectly cured, which occupied me about ten weeks.

CASE XV.

The following case is written by the patient:—

"June 6, 1829.

"Miss ——, aged 40, was first affected with piles about eight years ago, after over-heating herself by a long walk in warm weather; since that time they have troubled her every spring, and sometimes in the autumn. She has on these occasions generally derived most relief from the application of leeches, until last October, when, after feeling for some time very unwell, a slow nervous fever came on, which she once had about two years back, after a fall from a horse. About

the middle of December, after having taken a box of blue pills, a very violent pain came on suddenly in the lower part of the back, near the end of the back bone, internally, and continued for about four hours, when she could neither move nor speak for the agony. After it had subsided, an evacuation having been procured by clysters, a quantity of black bloody slime came off, and the side lost that feeling of fulness which before had existed there. After this period the pain regularly attacked the same internal part every day, sometimes twice in the twenty-four hours, with dreadful violence, lasting from an hour to two or three. At each time a flying pain, sometimes in the head, chest, stomach, or bowels, would generally precede the attack, and a swelling in the part would be sensibly felt, but not exactly what she had experienced with other attacks of piles; neither was the pain exactly similar. This continued nearly two months; a slight pain in the fingers, toes, and other joints, was also daily felt, and an appearance of inflammation in the right-hand forefinger seemed to indicate gout, with strong pulse in the parts

affected: indeed, during the whole time, the pulse was for the most part extremely high and throbbing, and every excitement brought on the pain, as did every kind of food or medicine. After the fever had subsided, Miss —— has been in a state of extreme debility, but is for the most part free from pain since she has taken Mr. Van Butchell's medicine, but has great weakness in the chest, and feels the piles sometimes troublesome after an evacuation (which often comes off in a tape form, or flat). They bleed a little at times; there is, with the exception of one little pile, no external appearance at present. The fulness, or more properly tightness in the right side, extending from the shoulder down across the ribs, is often experienced."

A few days after receiving the foregoing letter, the lady sent for me, when I ascertained that she was labouring under fistula, stricture, and two hœmorrhoidal excrescences. Her general health being very much impaired, I prescribed such medicine as I thought proper. Four days afterwards I directed an enema (consisting of yellow

soap and water, about one pint) to be used, and immediately after I applied my dressing to the tumours which came away on the third day, and gave her very great relief. I continued visiting her daily for eight weeks, during which time the fistula and stricture were perfectly cured, and at the expiration of that time she returned home in perfect health. In about a month after I received the following letter:—

"Cardiganshire, 9th September, 1829.

"Dear Sir,

"Since leaving town I have frequently felt called upon to address you with grateful feelings, and have only delayed doing so from a desire to specify more particularly how I am getting on. I shall proceed to state, as a brief sketch of my journey, that I slept at Gloucester on the first night, and from thence set off on the following morning for our friend's house, about four miles from Ross, where I remained some days—but the weather unfortunately deprived me of much pleasure from the beautiful scenery on the banks of the Wye, so charmingly described by its native

bard, Bloomfield—and after paying some other visits *en passant*, I arrived at my uncle's house in Carmarthenshire, where my friends as well as numerous others in this quarter have been completely astonished at the evident change in my health, apparent, they say, in my countenance and spirits; in short, I seem to some as a being raised from the grave, where, it appears, they had in idea placed me. Thus I have, indeed, ample gratitude to that Divine Providence which disposes of all events, for guiding me to you. This in some circumstances appears more clearly than in others, and the present one is an instance of it. My prejudice would have prevented my attending to an advertisement, had not the one which came into my hands appeared under the sanction of a respectable society (which I think I before mentioned to you), and now notice as a hint with respect to others; my hopes thus excited, braved every obstacle, and I rejoice to say that the result has been all I could anticipate, as I can really now say I am perfectly well. The enjoyment of health to me after such extreme suffering, is a blessing I cannot with sufficient

gratitude estimate, and I beg you will believe that, at any subsequent period of my life, I shall always feel a pleasure (should you think it requisite to refer any female fellow sufferer to me) to express, with every sentiment of thankfulness, the benefit I have personally derived from your skill. It is highly probable that you may have other patients from this part of the country, although I think it likely that they will not choose to be known. My father begs to join in kind compliments, trusting that yourself and family are in the enjoyment of health, and that you may contiuue to do so, as well as every other blessing, temporal and eternal, is, believe me, the sincere wish of

"Your much obliged patient,

"Jane ——."

CASE XVI.

In March, 1830, Mrs. B——, aged 42, the wife of a highly respectable tradesman, consulted me for a troublesome disease (as she described it) of the rectum. She had been examined by a

very eminent surgeon, who assured her the disease was fistula, and she could not be cured without submitting to the operation of cutting, to which she objected. I found a small fistulous sinus penetrating the gut at about an inch and a half, and I assured her, if she would submit to my dressing, I would undertake to cure her. I prescribed such medicine as I thought necessary, and on the following day, after the bowels had been freely relieved, I dressed the fistula, and continued to attend her until she was perfectly cured, which required about five weeks.

CASE XVII.

A lady, 39 years of age, the wife of an officer, applied to me in the beginning of May, 1832, in consequence of a very painful affection about the anus, which had been gradually increasing for three years, but was then becoming rapidly worse. She had applied to several medical men without obtaining any relief. This lady was of a very costive habit, and experienced great pain and difficulty in passing her stools, which she had

observed for some time were small in diameter; she had frequent but ineffectual calls, when it often happened that a substance protruded from the anus, which was extremely painful and used to bleed occasionally. The tumour would sometimes remain down the whole of the day, and would not return until she had passed the night in bed. There was sometimes hœmorrhage, without any protrusion, and she complained of a sense of weight about the lower part of the back, and of pains shooting down the thighs. Her nights were restless, attended with perspiration; she was thirsty, had a very impaired appetite, and her strength was considerably reduced.

Upon examining the part, I found a fistula communicating with the rectum, and an hœmorrhoidal excrescence about the size of a filbert; but on enquiry I was informed that the tumour was sometimes much larger. There was also, about two inches and a half from the orifice, a very narrow stricture, which would not admit my little finger. Having minutely examined the parts, I informed the patient she would be

under the necessity of submitting to a slight dressing, and in the meantime, proper means were adopted with a view to palliate the disorder, such as gentle laxatives, and leeches to the part. As, however, no sensible benefit was derived from these means, I suggested the propriety of applying my dressing, which she agreed to, and in the course of three days the tumour came off, when she expressed herself very much relieved. In about ten days I again applied my dressing for the cure of the fistula. The dressing came away on the third day, and on the twentieth day from the time it was applied the fistula was perfectly cured. I then directed that the rectum bougie should be introduced daily to complete the cure.

The following letter I received from her previously to her leaving town :—

" Barnes Common, July, 1832.

" My dear Sir,

" At the moment of my taking my final leave of one who had so materially served me, my feelings were too acute to express as I think I

ought to have done the sense of the obligation I am under to you for having effected so complete a cure of my complicated and particularly delicate and embarrassing disorder. I believe I once remarked to you, that none but those who had themselves suffered can fully appreciate the entire value of the deliverance which a patient experiences after having endured (perhaps for years, and in secret) bodily pain which is, in all probability, exceeded by mental anguish, then, in such circumstances, providentially to be led to you, whose skill can ensure a remedy attended with so small a portion of pain and inconvenience. It is an unspeakable blessing, for which not any sum of money can be considered equivalent, or language adequate to express the obligation. I earnestly wish that your own health and strength may be so improved, that for many years yet to come you may continue in that wide sphere of usefulness in which you are placed; and if in my power to strengthen the faith of any lady, I beg you will freely and without reserve send her to me, and I doubt not being able to convey to

the mind of any sufferer a portion of the comfort, confidence, and cheerfulness that I enjoyed while under your immediate care, and which was greatly promoted by the moderation and gentleness with which you met my unnecessary fears, securing the lasting gratitude of her who begs to subscribe herself,

"Yours very sincerely,

"Maria B——."

CASE XVIII.

In May, 1832, Captain B——, aged 34, consulted me. He stated that several years back he, subsequently to a severe bowel complaint, had been subject to several severe swellings about the rectum. I found several hæmorrhoidal excrescences, and a stricture to the extent of an inch, just within the sphincter; the contraction was, however, dilatable, and appeared likely to yield to the bougie. I informed him it would be requisite for me to apply my dressing to the largest

excrescence, to which he readily agreed, and appointed the following day, after the bowels had been relieved. The dressing producing an unusual degree of pain, I ordered an opiate to be given him at bedtime; on the third day the tumour came off, and in a few days I applied a second dressing, which removed the remainder, and he was much relieved. As soon as the parts were perfectly healed, I commenced introducing the rectum bougie, having successfully increased the size until one of full size passed with ease, and finding also that the passing of the motions had ceased to excite the least sense of uneasiness, this gentleman took his leave of me, being perfectly cured.

CASE XIX.

In September, 1832, a legal gentleman consulted me. He had been subject to great confinement of the bowels, and was obliged to take large quantities of opening medicine, which at last

often failed to have the effect. Within the last four years, whenever he attempted to relieve the bowels, some fleshy substance protruded, which often bled considerably. This substance was now so much increased, that it came down upon any ordinary exercise, attended with an acrid discharge, which irritated the orifice of the rectum. This gentleman had been what is termed "a free liver." He had consulted several medical gentlemen, who all agreed that the substance should be removed. On examination, after the bowels had been relieved, there appeared a fleshy tumour, about the size of a chestnut. I recommended my usual treatment, and on the following day I applied my dressing, and the tumour came off on the fourth day, when he found himself much relieved. In the course of three weeks he left town, expressing himself most thankful for the assistance I had rendered him.

CASE XX.

In March, 1833, a professional gentleman from Nottingham consulted me for what he considered a complicated disease of the rectum. He had been afflicted about sixteen years, and had consulted several professional men of the first eminence, without obtaining any permanent relief. I examined his case, and found he had two large tumours and a fistulous sinus, which I engaged to cure. I ordered him a draught at bedtime, and on the following day I applied my dressing. One tumour came away on the third day, and in less than a fortnight both tumours and fistula were perfectly cured.

Previously to his leaving town I received from him the following letter :—

" London, 6th April, 1833.

" My dear Sir,

" The short period of twelve days under your roof has exhibited such a contrast in the state of

my health as to be almost incredible. I entered your house on the afternoon of Monday, the 25th of March last, distressingly afflicted with what I had endured (and called " piles") for the last sixteen years, and on this day, Saturday, the 6th of April (just completing twelve days), I am, thank God, through your skill and attention, enabled to return into the country by the mail coach (a distance of 126 miles), cured; two large tumours in the rectum and a fistulous sinus having been effectually removed, without requiring confinement, or occasioning inconvenience or pain worth speaking of.

" That I should have continued so many years afflicted, and be able to obtain no other than mere temporary relief from professional men of the first eminence is indeed surprising. I cannot quit London without thus expressing my thanks for your skilful and friendly attention, and assuring you that I am delighted and proud to add my testimony to your justly earned reputation. I shall at all times with pleasure

render to any inquirer an explanation of my case, if in doing so I can promote your interest, or if the facts of my case will induce a fellow-sufferer to take courage and follow my example to obtain a relief from his affliction. I desire to say that any child six years old would have undergone the operations that you have performed upon me without complaint; indeed, I have endured more in walking twenty yards, and in carriage travelling five miles, than any pain experienced under your hand consequent upon your operations, which I have pleasure in designating scientific, efficacious, and simple — expeditious and painless. Accept my heartfelt thanks, and believe me,

" Dear Sir, your obliged servant,

" S. P——."

CASE XXI.

The following case is written by the patient:

"I am 40 years of age, have been married twelve years—had five children and three miscarriages; and the last eight years of my life have been passed in India. I always had severe labours, but recovered very well. I never enjoyed robust health, but had reason to be satisfied with the portion I possessed till the beginning of the year 1828, when I began to be sensible of the gradual loss of strength and extreme irritability of the nerves; but being in the family way, I ascribed these new sensations to my situation. I was confined in July, 1829, when I had a severe labour, but after the first fortnight I felt as well as I had usually done on similar occasions. After that I again experienced a gradual loss of strength, and the same painful, nervous sensations I had suffered before my confinement returned with additional violence. For

about six weeks I had a constant gnawing pain in my right side, and a sensation of great weight whenever I attempted to lie on the other; I had at the same time an incessant pain at the lower part of my back, and was subject to sudden pains in my limbs and violent perspirations, with extreme coldness in my feet. Some domestic misfortune aggravated all these symptoms extremely, and as my illness was considered to be entirely owing to debility and the effects of the climate, I was advised to proceed immediately to England. When I arrived in London, I continued in much the same state: my bowels were generally in a confined state, but subject to sudden extremes.

"In London I consulted Dr. ——, who seemed to think much medicine was necessary, particularly calomel, which I took several times, when the doctor advised me to go to Cheltenham, as he thought I should derive benefit from the waters. I went there in May, and consulted Dr. ——, who appeared to understand my case,

and assured me my illness was occasioned by some biliary obstruction, which he thought he could soon remove. I took his medicine every night for a fortnight, and the waters in the morning, and he thought me so much better, that he advised me to leave off the pills and only take the waters, which I continued to drink for another month. During the first six weeks I recovered, but after that period my former complaint began to return. Dr. —— ascribed this to my having drank the waters too long, and advised me to go to Bath, as he thought every obstruction that might have existed was entirely removed. I went to Bath in October, in hopes of preventing my complaints increasing by taking the waters, but I was not sensible of much benefit. My nerves became in such a state of irritation that I could not bear to be spoken to, and the slightest exertion brought on headache. I had frequent pains in my limbs, a constant throbbing in my temples, quick pulse, and a sensation of such debility and oppression, that it was painful for me to walk across the room.

After experiencing all this for a fortnight, a violent bowel complaint convinced me my bowels were in a very bad state. I was ordered some calomel and rhubarb, and other opening medicines; they all operated sufficiently, but at every interval between taking the medicine they became in a very relaxed state, attended with a severe griping pain, which began in my stomach and descended into my bowels. I had always much uneasiness after eating, and very imperfect digestion. I consulted Dr. ——, who ordered me to take calomel and rhubarb. I did so for about a week, which brought on a violent prolapsus of the rectum, and I discontinued to take the calomel; but the pain I suffered while the bearing down lasted was very severe, and caused a violent pain in the lower part of my back.

" Soon after this I left Bath for London and consulted Sir ——, who recommended me nervous medicines; these I rather think only aggravated my sufferings. I had recourse again to my old medicine, calomel and rhubarb, and I

still suffered extremely, as during the three preceding years. I was advised to go to the sea-side for the benefit of bathing, which I did for a month, but I derived no advantage from it.

"In April, 1833, I went to London, and consulted Sir ——. He did not think I was labouring under any local disease, but seemed decidedly of opinion something was wrong in the digestive organs. Except the usual tonics, he did not suggest anything that was likely to remedy this. I therefore returned to my usual pills."

From the latter end of 1833, this lady discontinued to make minutes of her complaint; she, however, consulted several other medical gentlemen after that time, but with similar disappointments.

In May, 1834, I received a note requesting I would call on her. I did so, and found her very much out of health. I wrote a prescription for some pills, of five grains of rhubarb and three of

blue pill, to be taken at night, and an aperient draught for the morning; and desired, when the bowels were relieved, she would send for me, which she did the following day. I then examined her case, and found she was labouring under a very complicated disease of the rectum, viz., fistula, tumour, and stricture. I attended her daily for a week, and her health during that time being much improved, I recommended her to have the tumour removed. On the following day I applied my dressing, and the tumour came off the third day, when she expressed herself much relieved. After the part had completely healed, I introduced a very small rectum bougie daily, and in less than a month I was enabled to introduce one of a moderate size, and apply my dressing for the cure of the fistula, which came away the third day. In about fifteen days she considered herself so well that she determined to leave England by the first ship for India, and on the 29th of August left London, after having been absent from her husband nearly five years.

The following letter I received from her the day previous to her departure:—

"Dear Sir,

"I cannot quit England without writing a few lines expressive of the gratitude so justly your due, for the uncommon skill and unremitting attention manifested in your late treatment of my case—a complicated one of fistula, tumour, and stricture; so aggravated by several years' duration (notwithstanding the best advice procurable), that I was reduced to the last stage of weakness. In this state of extremity I was induced to apply to you, and truly thankful shall I ever be that I did so, since to your humane exertions for the short period of three months I consider myself indebted for life, and, consequently, the prospect I may now indulge of rejoining my husband, after an absence of five years, from protracted severe illness, which threatened to terminate only with my existence. I may also add, with truth, that the cure was effected, comparatively speaking, with little pain;

since the means adopted for the purpose were certainly less painful and difficult to endure than the sufferings produced by the dreadful disorders alluded to.

" Earnestly wishing that your uncommon merit may ere long be better known and appreciated, I beg to subscribe myself,

" Your ever grateful and obliged

" ——— ———.

" August 29, 1834."

CASE XXII.

In March, 1834, a gentleman, about 48 years of age, and whose general health was not very good, consulted me for a troublesome prolapsus of the gut and tumours, which had existed and had been increasing for ten years. For the last three years he could not take moderate exercise without the protrusion of the part, and when he

went to stool it came down very much. I prescribed for him a draught, and requested to see him on the following day, immediately after the bowels were relieved. I then discovered four hœmorrhoidal tumours; one as large as a small walnut, the others about the size of a nutmeg. I told him he ought to have the large one removed, and on the following day, after the bowels were relieved, I applied my dressing. He did not complain of much pain, and on the third day, when the tumour came off, he expressed himself much relieved. On the seventh day I applied my dressing to the next largest, which on the third day also came away. After he had a motion on the following day I examined him, and found two more tumours had made their appearance, consequently I applied my dressings until they were all removed.

In consequence of the death of a relation he was obliged to go into the country, when I received the following very satisfactory letter from him :—

" Dear Sir,

" It is now little more than ten weeks since I placed myself under your care, for the cure of that distressing disease (internal hœmorrhoidal tumours) with which I had been so long afflicted, rendering me incompetent to use any active exertion, and depriving me of every enjoyment of my existence; and in that period you have successfully removed six tumours, with little pain or inconvenience, when compared with what I had suffered from the disease itself, and in comparison with what I suffered about nine years ago, when two tumours were removed by an eminent surgeon, with ligatures, at an interval of six weeks between each operation. I was then required to remain in bed till the removal was effected, which, in the first instance, occupied nine days, and all that time I was in constant pain and kept on low diet; whereas, under your care, I have not been confined to my bed for one day. The tumours generally came away on the third day without pain, and the

restraint in diet was very trivial—only for a day or two after each operation.

" I am happy to say that I now begin to experience real benefit from your treatment of my case, and I feel every confidence that what you at first induced me to expect from it will ultimately be realised; and that in acknowledging hereafter the cure you have accomplished in me, I shall have great reason to be thankful to God for the fortuitous circumstance which first induced me to consult you, that being the urgent solicitation of a gentleman (at the time almost an entire stranger to me) whom you had many years previously entirely cured of a disease somewhat similar to mine, after upwards of thirty years of suffering.

" As I am about to leave town for a few weeks, I could not take my departure without first rendering you this tribute of justice to your skill, and the attention I received from yourself and family during the six weeks I resided in your

house; and on my return I hope to present myself to you much improved in my general health, and that you may then find that my case will occasion you no further trouble, the cure, as far as surgical skill can accomplish it, being complete.

"You are at liberty to mention my case to whomsoever you please; and I shall be ready to give every information and satisfaction in my power (as to your mode of treatment and the benefit I have already experienced) to any fellow-sufferer who may wish to communicate with me on the subject.

"I am, dear Sir, your's truly,

"——— ———.

"——— Square, Pentonville, June 3, 1834."

CASE XXIII.

The following case was written by the patient, a military officer:—

"Having for some months experienced great pain and inconvenience from what were considered piles, I consulted several surgeons in various places, and, my complaint becoming more painful than alleviated, I came to London for the purpose of submitting my case to one of the most eminent surgeons in the metropolis, under whom I underwent a very painful operation, with the assurance of receiving immediate relief. That operation was the removal of a tumour from the sphincter muscle of the rectum by the knife. The incision would not heal, and, becoming an ulcerated wound, my sufferings were very soon greater than ever, being never without intense pain, and always in the most excruciating suffering for eight or nine hours whenever the bowels were moved. In this state

I have been supporting a miserable existence for eighteen months, consulting every surgeon and medical practitioner in London that I thought would be likely to benefit me; but all hopes of any relief having become futile, and my general health and spirits being greatly impaired by continual suffering, I am about to retire into the country, with the only hope that my complaint will speedily terminate my existence, unless, Sir, you can afford me some hopes of relief, as I have been advised to apply to you, in consequence of hearing of your skill in those distressing complaints."

This officer was under my care for three months; when he left me I received from him the following letter:—

"High Wycombe, Bucks, July, 1834.

"My dear Sir,

"I cannot define my grateful sense of the permanent benefit I derived from your great professional skill and gentle treatment, by which

I was completely cured of an ulcerated rectum of more than two years' continuance, when I had totally failed to derive any relief from the most eminent surgeons in London and other cities, after that painful malady had become greatly increased, and my general health and spirits had been, what I considered, irrevocably debilitated by the most severe suffering.

" In thus thankfully calling to mind the great extent of your surgical eminence, I have only to regret that I had no opportunity of applying to you in an earlier stage of my affliction, because, from the numerous patients who personally assured me of the various diseases of which they had been speedily and effectually cured, I witnessed such positive proofs of your very superior treatment in all disorders of the rectum, that I am confident I should have been relieved from two years of most tormenting malady.

" With sincere good wishes for your welfare, believe me to be, yours truly,

" ——— ———."

CASE XXIV.

In June, 1835, a gentleman from Hertfordshire consulted me for a very painful disease of the rectum, which he described very accurately. I found he was suffering very much, every time the bowels were relieved, from hœmorrhoidal excrescences, of which there were five—two of them as large as nutmegs. I undertook to perform for him a perfect cure, provided he would remain in town, and commenced on the following day by applying my dressing. On the third day the largest tumour came away, when he experienced very great relief. On the eighth day I dressed the second, and continued my dressings till the whole were removed. In five weeks from the day he arrived in town he returned home. The following letter I received from him a few days afterwards:—

"Hemel Hempstead, Aug. 1835.

"Dear Sir,

"I am happy to inform you (and I am sure

you will be equally glad to hear) that I have been progressively improving since my return home on the 11th.

" Although I experienced some little inconvenience for a day or two, yet, by attending to your directions, I am now very comfortable, and, instead of, as formerly, being obliged to sit still for five or six hours after nature had been relieved (and then with much pain move about), I can now leave home in as few minutes, with the greatest comfort.

" You will allow me, my dear Sir, to take this opportunity of returning you my grateful and heartfelt thanks for the kind, judicious, and tender treatment I received while under your care, and to state that I was afflicted for nearly 20 years with what are termed tumours, &c.; that I had consulted many eminent surgeons, who gave me no encouragement that I should ever be cured, and only recommended me to use palliatives; but my situation became so distressing,

that I had, for the last year particularly, very little ease either night or day, and was prevented attending to any business. I was at length urged to apply to you, and it gives me great satisfaction to have it in my power to add to the numerous testimonials of gentlemen whom I know, that, with the blessing of God, through your very judicious treatment of my case, I am now able to attend to the various duties of life without the least inconvenience.

"You are quite at liberty to make use of this statement in any way you please, and I shall be most happy to communicate with any fellow-sufferer, either personally or by letter, if any testimony will induce them to apply for that relief which I am satisfied they will obtain under your care.

"Your much obliged servant,

"——— ———.

"P.S. It is my intention to have my case inserted in some of the provincial papers."

CASE XXV.

In November, 1835, a lady about 40, the widow of a surgeon, residing in the neighbourhood of Bermondsey, consulted me for a disease of the rectum, which she had laboured under for more than 12 years. She informed me that during her husband's life, he never would give his consent for her to submit to the operation of cutting. I found a deep-seated fistula and a small hœmorrhoidal excrescence, which I undertook to cure. The following day I applied my dressing to the tumour, which came away on the third day; and on the eighth I dressed the fistula, which produced an unusual degree of pain. I prescribed an opiate, which soon gave her relief, and on the following day she assured me she had slept nearly the whole of the night. I continued my attendance until she was perfectly cured, which was effected in about six weeks.

CASE XXVI.

In August, 1836, a nobleman consulted me for a disease of the rectum, which he considered was occasioned by tumours and piles, with which he had been afflicted for nearly 20 years. I discovered two hœmorrhoidal tumours about the size of nutmegs, and prescribed a draught, desiring he would send for me on the following day, when the bowels were relieved. I then applied my dressing; on the eighth day my second dressing, and on the sixteenth day he returned home perfectly cured. Previously to his leaving town I received from his lordship the following letter:—

"London, 24th Sept. 1836.

"My dear Sir,

"It is impossible for me to leave town without writing to say how grateful I feel that, under your care, and through your kind attention, I have been speedily cured of a most distressing

complaint, which I had suffered from, more or less, for upwards of twenty years, and which latterly became impossible to endure; and this you have effected a cure of in less than a fortnight, with my only experiencing pain for a day and a night, and with hardly any restraint as to diet, &c. I had, previously to my seeing you, consulted several very eminent surgeons in London and the country, without receiving any relief.

" It will ever give me pleasure to hear of your success through life, and I request you will be so good as to explain the nature of my case and show this letter to any person who may wish to see it. I consider it only a duty I owe to you for the skill and kindness I experienced whilst under your care, at the same time hoping it may induce others to resort to you who are suffering under similar complaints, as they are certain of a cure. With every wish for your prosperity and happiness,

" Believe me, dear Sir,

" Your grateful and obliged servant,

" ——— ———."

CASE XXVII.

In July, 1836, a captain in the army, about 30 years of age, consulted me on a painful disease of the rectum, from which he had been suffering about two years. On examination, I found it nearly filled up by a fungus growth, which, in some parts, was of a spongy nature, and in others of a more indurated or warty substance. There was also much ulceration in the gut, and a copious discharge of matter; but I found that I could essentially serve him, and told him if he would reside near me I would afford him the relief his case required. He did so, and I commenced my treatment, the result of which may be ascertained by the following letter:—

"My dear Sir,

"I take this opportunity of expressing to you how gratefully I feel all the kindness and attention I have experienced under your roof, and my perfect conviction that, had I been fortunate

enough to have applied to you in an earlier stage of my complaint, I should ere now have ceased to suffer; as, not only have I never derived any benefit except from your kind care and zeal, but when under the care of others I have rapidly got worse, and, as you know, I have tried all the first people in London.

"Believe me, dear Sir,

"Ever faithfully your much obliged,

"——— ———.

"Junior United Service Club."

Subsequently I received the following letter from the captain's mother:—

"Dear Sir,

"Enclosed you will find a second cheque, accompanied with my best acknowledgments. Allow me to observe, I am very sensible that skill, kindness, and attention, cannot be compensated by mere money; and I shall always feel myself your debtor for all these. Both my son and myself will be most happy to express

this to any and every one whom you may think proper to refer to either of us. I can with truth state, that during the long period my son was under the treatment of the most eminent surgeons of London, he derived no benefit whatever from any of them; and that to you alone, under Providence, he owes his restoration to his present state of health. For the liberal hospitality, the constant attention, and unwearied kindness he experienced whilst under your roof, permit me, in his name and my own, to offer you the sincerest thanks, and to subscribe myself, dear Sir,

" Your truly obliged,

" C. S——.

" Margaret Street, Cavendish Square."

CASE XXVIII.

In November, 1836, a gentleman about 38 years of age, who had been afflicted six years, consulted me for a disease of the rectum, which he had been told was fistula. I discovered when his bowels were relieved, that in addition to the fistula, he suffered great pain from two hœmorrhoidal excrescences, each about the size of a nutmeg. I undertook to cure him, provided he would reside near me, and on the following day I applied my dressing, which occasioned him some inconvenience. In the evening I prescribed an opiate, which soon gave him relief. The excrescence came away on the third day, and on the tenth I applied my second dressing, which came away at the usual period. In a few days afterwards I dressed the fistula, and when the dressing came away he felt very much relieved. Within a few weeks he was perfectly cured, and shortly afterwards I received from him the following letter:—

"DEAR SIR,

"The recent cure you have effected, after the long suffering I have endured, induces me to request that you will give my case publicity in any way you may think proper, as I feel it a duty I owe to yourself and to society; and I trust it may prove the means of removing any prejudices in the minds of those similarly afflicted. After six years' suffering, finding I could obtain no relief from the various surgeons I had placed myself under, and conceiving my case almost hopeless, I was induced to apply to you; and the deep debt of gratitude I owe for the skill and unremitting attention received at your hands will never be effaced from my memory, having been restored from a life of misery to a state of comfort, to which I had been for years a stranger. It will afford me a great deal of pleasure to satisfy the inquiries of any person you may refer to me on the subject; and with sincerest gratitude for your kind-

ness, added to the warmest wishes for your success,

"Believe me, dear Sir,

"Yours very sincerely,

"W. T——.

"—— Terrace, Brompton."

CASE XXIX.

In May, 1837, Mr. F——, a retired tradesman, in his 56th year, consulted me for a disease of the rectum, which I found to be deep-seated fistula and very contracted stricture, together with considerable inflammatory action about the anus. His general health had been greatly impaired by his local complaint, and he seemed almost hopeless of a cure being within the range of probability without the dreaded operation of cutting; however, I felt confident I could encourage him to the contrary, and the following letter will show how far my assurances were realised:—

"My dear Sir,

"Feeling indebted to your skill for the cure of a fistula and stricture with which I had been afflicted upwards of three years, I cannot refrain from offering you my sincere acknowledgments for the kind attention you paid to my painful case, and the experienced manner in which you treated it, thus enabling me so speedily to obtain a cure after being in the hands of my medical attendants more than two years, and finding my complaint increase, with the dread of supposing a surgical operation to be necessary. I cannot but feel grateful to that Providence which directed me to apply to you, and thankful for your gentle mode of treatment, which even a child might have borne without complaint, and by which I am restored to health, and much better than I was for years before I detected the nature of my disease.

"I beg you will give publicity to my senti-

ments of gratitude and respect, due for the kindness I experienced while under your hospitable roof, and for the health I now enjoy, in the hope that any sufferer similarly afflicted will be induced to apply to the same source, where the nature of such diseases is understood, and that I may have the opportunity of stating to them any particulars required.

"I am, dear Sir,

"Your very grateful friend,

"____ ____."

CASE XXX.

The following case is written by the patient, a lady :—

"I am 35 years of age, having been a widow ten years, and I had, generally speaking, enjoyed good health up to the summer of 1831, when I became delicate, and suffered occasionally from

internal pain and debility. In the autumn of 1831, I was visited with a severe domestic affliction, and my health appeared worse, which I attributed to that cause. In the spring of 1832, I experienced another heavy visitation, and from then until January, 1833, I continued extremely ill, suffering greatly from pain in my back, and what I thought to be piles. I was confined to my bed for three weeks, and endured extreme pain from an abscess, which was opened by a skilful surgeon, but which did not heal from that time until November, 1836, a period of four years. My sufferings during the time were very great, and I had almost the constant medical advice of one of the first surgeons in London, without receiving any benefit. My disease had by this time become a complicated case of fistula, tumours, and stricture, when I was induced by an advertisement (having found every previous treatment unavailing) to seek assistance from Mr. Van Butchell. For six weeks I had the benefit of that gentleman's attendance daily, at the expiration of which period it was necessary

for me to see him only twice a week; and after a very short time I was perfectly cured, and am now in the full enjoyment of perfect health.

In December, 1838, this lady arrived in town and sent for me. I examined her case, and found she was labouring under a complicated disease of the rectum,—viz. fistula, stricture, and two small tumours, which I undertook to cure. On the following day, after the bowels had been moved, I applied my dressing to the tumours which came away on the third day, when she experienced immediate relief. I then applied my dressing to the fistula, which produced considerable pain, in consequence of its being very deeply seated. I attended her daily for about six weeks, when the fistula was perfectly cured, and the stricture I afterwards removed by the use of the rectum bougie. I some time afterwards received from her the following letter:—

"My dear Sir,

"I feel myself called upon by gratitude to

acknowledge the complete cure you have made of my distressing and painful case of fistula, stricture, and tumours, after I had failed to obtain relief from two eminent surgeons, whose care I was under for nearly four years. I was in a state of extreme debility, unable to walk or sit without great pain, when I was induced to apply to you, and by your skill and attention I am happy to say I am once more restored to perfect health, greatly to the surprise of a numerous circle of friends. I beg you will not hesitate to refer any lady to me for the full particulars of my case.

" Believe me your ever grateful,

" E. I. C.

" Blackheath."

CASE XXXI.

In March, 1837, Captain ——, from India, consulted me for a disease of the rectum. His complaint began about three years previously,

when he first observed a swelling in the vicinity of the anus, which at times gave him a good deal of pain. He used no remedy, and it is only about twelve months since he first observed the discharge, and when that did not escape he suffered great pain. On examination, after the bowels had been relieved, I discovered two hœmorrhoidal excrescences, each about the size of a nutmeg, with a broad base and an irregular surface, on which I observed a small perforation, and through which the matter was discharged. The tumours were extremely tender to the touch, and on introducing the probe through the sinus it entered the gut at about an inch and a half. On the following day I applied my dressing to the tumours, which came away on the fourth day, when he felt himself very much relieved. In a few days after I dressed the fistula, and in about four weeks he was perfectly cured.

CASE XXXII.

In May, 1837, a tradesman applied to me for assistance for fistula. On examination, a sinus presented itself within an inch of the anus. He stated that he had been afflicted nearly seven years, and had been attended by several medical gentlemen, who all agreed that he could not be cured without submitting to the operation of cutting, to which he had great objection. I prescribed a pill to be taken at bedtime, and a draught in the morning; and requested he would call on me after the bowels were relieved, when I applied my usual dressing. He continued his attendance almost daily until he was perfectly cured, when I received from him the following letter :—

"Clerkenwell, September, 1837.

"Sir,

"I scarcely know how to express my gratitude for the recent cure I have experienced by

your skilful mode of treatment, after having been afflicted with fistula for nearly seven years, during which time I was under several eminent surgeons, who declared it impossible to effect a cure without cutting. I am now perfectly cured, after thirty attendances, without being cut or ever prevented attending my business, or suffering the least restraint in my diet. I entreat you will make this as public as possible for the benefit of others, and beg you will refer any person to me who may wish for further information.

"I remain your obedient servant,

"——— ———."

CASE XXXIII.

In February, 1838, a gentleman from Watford requested my advice. He said he had a great discharge of blood from the rectum after the bowels were relieved, usually to the extent of half a pint, and suffered great pain from hœmorr-

hoidal tumours, which remained down for a considerable length of time. After the bowels were relieved I examined him, and found four tumours, one the size of a pullet's egg, and the others smaller, which I had some difficulty in returning. I advised him to remain in town, and on the following day I applied my dressing. In less than a week he felt himself very much relieved, and in the course of five weeks he returned home in greatly improved health. In a few months afterwards I received from him the following very satisfactory letter:—

"Watford, January, 1839.

"My dear Sir,

"It is with pleasure I now take up my pen to acknowledge the complete cure you have effected of my distressing disease of tumours, under which I had suffered for upwards of twenty years, and consulted several medical gentlemen, without obtaining any relief. For the last ten years I was unable to undergo any exertion, or, indeed stand upright for any length of time,

without the tumours protruding, when the pain became most excessive; to prevent which I was obliged constantly to wear a most powerful bandage, pressing on the parts to keep them up. Whenever I attempted to relieve nature, the tumours were forced out, and I was in the most excruciating agony until I could get them back again, which would sometimes require ten or fifteen minutes to effect; and, at times, would bleed most copiously, and so continue until the tumours were forced back. I had long since given up all hopes of a cure, as I was convinced that any attempt to eradicate them by the use of the knife must have terminated fatally. At length my sufferings became too extreme to be borne, and hearing of several persons you had cured of similar diseases, I was most providentially led to place myself under your care on the 7th day of February, 1838; and on the 10th day of March following I was enabled to return home, being in the course of a few weeks restored to the full enjoyment of health, which has continued unabated to the present time. A sense of

gratitude for the kind treatment I experienced whilst under your care, will ever make me most desirous to recommend other persons similarly afflicted to apply where they may rely upon a speedy cure; and I shall at all times feel most happy to answer any communication that may be made to me on the subject. With best wishes for your success and happiness,

"Believe me your truly obliged,

"——— ———."

CASE XXXIV.

In August, 1838, a Mr. C———, from Romford, applied to me for advice, stating that he had for upwards of three years been suffering from a disease of the rectum which had brought him into so debilitated a state that he was unable to pursue his occupation. I found he was labouring under fistula and two hœmorrhoidal excrescences, which I undertook to cure, provided he could, by residing near me, attend to my

directions. He did so, and in five weeks from the period of my commencing my treatment he was enabled to return home, perfectly cured. A short time afterwards I received from him the following letter:—

" Romford, October, 1838.

" Dear Sir,

" Gratitude for the relief I have obtained by your skilful care of the painful disease of the rectum, under which I had for so long a period suffered, induces me to offer you my sincere acknowledgments for your unwearied attention to my case, and kind treatment of it during the five weeks which it occupied you to effect its cure. Having suffered beyond description for upwards of three years prior to my application to you, I can scarcely describe my sensation at finding myself restored to health, and able to resume my business with ease and comfort; and I shall feel pleasure if you will publicly state the nature of my case and my sentiments on the speedy cure of it.

" Believe me yours very sincerely,

" ——— ———."

CASE XXXV.

The following case was written by the patient, a clergyman :—

"Norwich, 23rd October, 1838.

"SIR,

"Having had a disease of the rectum for more than ten years, and being rather worse of late, my attention was caught by the advertisement of your book in the newspaper. I accordingly purchased it, and the perusal of it induces me to apply to you, in hopes that I may experience the same benefit which so many others have received from your treatment.

"I have been obliged constantly to take aperient medicine before I could obtain effectual relief from the bowels, which was followed by the protrusion of four tumours, and though I have seldom found much difficulty in returning them, still there was the probability of their

coming down again after walking a mile or two. The tumours scarcely ever bleed, but I am obliged to be very careful, both in diet and in keeping the bowels in a soluble state, which I have effected, for the last four years, by taking nearly every night one or two tea-spoonfuls of castor oil. Some years ago I received considerable relief (after having suffered great pain) by applying bread and milk poultices; and, about two years since, I had recourse to the same remedy, On these occasions I did not perceive any matter, and only once or twice a slight tinge of blood. I have since suffered much from palpitation of the heart, intermittent pulse, and great weakness.

" I applied to a surgeon, who made use of the rectum bougie, and ordered me to take castor oil; the tumours, however, protruded each time, and though I found myself rather better for a short period, yet being obliged to be a good deal from home shortly afterwards, I was thrown back again, and have seldom been able to dispense

with the oil since. The disease has also gradually become worse.

"Two or three months ago I was induced to have leeches applied to the part, and I soon found that the loss of blood had impaired my health. This, however, I hope I have now regained; but I think the disease itself has ever since increased. The tumours are now very large, one being almost the size of a walnut, and it is with difficulty that I can return them within the anus. I feel now in that state that I must take some decisive step for relief, and have made up my mind to come to London, if I can manage the journey, for your personal advice. Trusting that you will excuse the length of this statement,

"I am, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"____ ____."

On the 30th of October he arrived in town, to appearance, in pretty good health. After the bowels were relieved, there appeared four hœmorrhoidal tumours, the largest about the size of

a walnut, the others smaller. I prescribed half an ounce of castor oil, and requested to see him in the morning immediately after nature had been relieved, when I applied my dressing to the largest tumour, which came away on the fourth day, and afforded him very great relief. A few days afterwards I dressed the next largest, which came away at the usual time, and I continued attending him until he was perfectly cured. Shortly after I received from him the following letter:—

"Norwich, January 3, 1839.

"My dear Sir,

"Permit me to express the very deep sense of obligation which I feel to you for the benefits I have received from your skill. You have removed for me four hœmorrhoidal tumours by a mode of treatment which, having read several of the first surgical works on the subject, I do not hesitate to pronounce as pre-eminently scientific and safe, as well as effectual. For seventeen days, during which I had the advantage of being under your roof, I experienced unwearied attention and kindness at your hands. You did not confine me

a single hour to bed, and, with the exception of a single day, at each of the three times when you applied your dressing, you made hardly any change in my diet; and, at the end of that period, I was enabled to return home, a distance of 120 miles, without the slightest inconvenience. For these benefits, and for the very great hospitality and kindness I received, I shall ever feel most sincerely grateful. It will be a great pleasure to me if I can be a means of extending your fame, or of imparting to any who may be similarly affected, the perfect reliance which I have in your skill, judgment, and honour. Begging that you will not hesitate to refer any inquirer to me whom you may think fit,

"I remain, yours very truly,

"____ ____."

CASE XXXVI.

In February, 1839, a lady, the widow of a medical practitioner of great repute and respectability, consulted me for a prolapsus of

the rectum. After the bowels were relieved, I discovered three hœmorrhoidal excrescences, which were the cause of the prolapsus. I undertook the cure on her deciding to place herself under my treatment, and in less than twenty visits she was perfectly relieved and restored to health, after having suffered from the above complaint above 15 years. Shortly after the cure I received from her the following letter :—

" Regent Street.

" My dear Sir,

" I am happy to say, and I am sure you will be gratified to hear, that I am quite well, and feel satisfied I am perfectly cured. I now, thank God, can appreciate your skill, which has restored me to health and ease, after having been a sufferer for the last 15 years. My husband, who was a medical man of eminence, frequently gave me palliatives to mitigate the pain, but they were not efficient remedies in eradicating the disease. I earnestly beg you will, without reserve, make use of my name. I shall, at all times, be most happy to give every information to any lady who may be a sufferer, to induce her

to have confidence, and avail herself of that relief which I am sure she will speedily obtain under your kind and gentle treatment, which will be ever gratefully remembered by

"Your sincere and obliged patient,

"——— ———."

CASE XXXVII.

In February, 1839, Mr. ———, a highly respectable tradesman of Regent Street, consulted me for a painful disease of the rectum, with which he had been afflicted more than 10 years. There appeared several hœmorrhoidal tumours, one rather large. I prescribed some laxative medicine, and requested he would call on me in a few days, when I would apply my dressing to the largest tumour, the result of which may be ascertained by the following letter:—

"Regent Street.

"Dear Sir,

"It is with feelings of delight I beg to express my gratitude for the benefit I have received from

your surgical assistance. I was afflicted above 10 years with tumours of the rectum, which caused me agonies indescribable, rendering me unfit for business of any kind. My friends were unanimous in advising me to apply for medical aid, which I did to several gentlemen of the faculty, and they all agreed that the tumours must be removed, and that the knife was the only medium for effecting a cure. Rather than submit to so hazardous an operation, I determined upon taking my complaint to the grave. The disease increased, and I frequently lost large quantities of blood, with the constant protrusion of the tumours; at last I was induced, by the advice of a friend, who had been a patient of yours, and had received a perfect cure, to apply to you (and never can I feel sufficiently thankful for the advice), when, in the space of six weeks, I obtained the cure of a most painful disease, seven tumours having been removed with less pain than I previously endured each time I had the bowels relieved. Gratitude, beyond expression, prompts me to say, that should you be desirous of giving publicity to my case, it will

afford me the greatest pleasure to answer the inquiries of any fellow-sufferer, and believe me,

" My dear Sir, your truly obliged,

" ——— ———."

CASE XXXVIII.

In April, 1839, a widow lady from Ramsgate consulted me for what she considered prolapsus of the rectum, with which she had been afflicted nearly 16 years, and which disease had so much increased of late, that she found it impossible to walk even a few yards without the part protruding. I discovered two tumours, one the size of a pullet's egg, the other much smaller, which, on the slightest exertion, caused the part to protrude. Her general health was pretty good, and I undertook to cure her disease, provided she could reside near me. That being determined on, I commenced by prescribing such medicines as I thought necessary, requesting she would send for me the following day when the bowels were relieved. I then applied a dressing, which,

on the fourth day, brought away the large tumour. This afforded her great relief. On the tenth day I dressed the small one, and in less than a month she returned home perfectly cured. A few weeks afterwards I received from her the following letter :—

" Ramsgate, August 10, 1839.

" Dear Sir,

" I feel that the most grateful thanks, both publicly and privately expressed, for the great attention you have paid my painful complaint, and the kindness I received from you during the cure of it, are so justly due to you, that the delay of a single week only to express my sentiments of gratitude would demand from me a thousand apologies ; and I should have sent to you immediately on my return, but that a friend on whom I depended for the means was absent on a journey. After the sufferings I have so many years endured, words cannot express the delight I feel at being so totally released from the incessant pain and anxiety they occasioned. To repay you for your kindness is impossible ; that Heaven may reward you with long life and happiness, is

my earnest, constant prayer. I need not say how happy I should be to have any one referred to me who is similarly afflicted: I therefore sincerely hope you will give me the opportunity of serving a fellow-creature in that way, should it be in your power. Trusting that your family and self are in the enjoyment of health and every attendant blessing,

"I remain, dear Sir,

"Your obliged and grateful patient,

"____ ____."

CASE XXXIX.

Some time since a gentleman from the City, who had undergone several severe operations, consulted me for a disease of the rectum. I found three fistulous sinuses, two of which communicated with the gut; and he was likewise afflicted with stricture. I told him his case would require a long attendance, but I had no doubt of his being ultimately cured. On the following day I commenced my treatment, and

after only seventy-one visits the disease was perfectly eradicated, and the cure I effected was gratefully acknowledged in the following letter:

" London, October, 1839.

" My dear Sir,

" For the benefit of my fellow-creatures, I congratulate myself on being enabled to hand you, for their information, a little history of my past sufferings. In the latter end of 1837, I was operated upon for fistula and stricture by the most eminent surgeons in this great metropolis, and a series of operations followed, under which my sufferings were so truly horrible that it is impossible for pen to describe them. I continued under their care for nine months (the principal part of the time confined to my bed), when I had greatly improved, and considered myself rapidly recovering, and it was thought there were no further visits required. But in the course of two months I found symptoms of the old complaint returning, and rather than be subjected to the torture of the knife again, I had resolved to linger on a miserable existence, until

death should put a period to my sufferings, when some of my friends insisted on my consulting you, and grateful am I to them for the introduction. Your treatment gave me so little pain, that I was able to attend to my business during the time I was under your care, which was but a few months, and I congratulate you, as well as myself, upon the very sound cure you have effected, not only in healing up the parts effectually, but in restoring my general health. May God grant that all those afflicted with that dreadful disease may be as fortunate as myself in hearing of your celebrity, and being placed under your care. If my testimony can give any weight, I shall feel proud in recommending you, and, believe me to be,

"Your very grateful friend,

"____ ____."

CASE XL.

The following case was written by the patient, a gentleman about 50 years of age:—

" I was for more than ten years much afflicted with piles. There was frequently great pain after the bowels were evacuated, and the excrementatious discharge was of a very unhealthy nature. Various means were tried without producing any permanent good effect. In the beginning of the year 1836, I consulted one of the most eminent surgeons in London, and went through the severe operation of ligature and cutting. This operation however did not effect a permanent cure, for in a few months afterwards my complaint returned. As I was quite averse to undergo so severe an operation a second time, and understanding that Mr. Van Butchell was celebrated for the cure of those distressing complaints, I determined upon consulting that gentleman, who pronounced my case to be a complicated disease of tumours. I immediately placed myself under his care, and, by his superior professional skill, I was enabled in three weeks to return home, calling upon him occasionally afterwards according to his directions, until the cure of my complaint was perfected."

Some time afterwards I received from this gentleman the following letter:—

"Commercial Road, London,
Oct. 15, 1839.

"Dear Sir,

"I have much pleasure in acquainting you that I have not had the least return of my complaint. It were needless for me to pass any high encomiums on your merits as a surgeon, your skill and reputation being already well known to the public. Nevertheless, I am anxious to contribute my testimonial to those of others who have been cured by your judicious treatment. I therefore beg you will not hesitate to refer any one to me who may wish for a reference. You may rest assured that I shall, at all times, be ready to bear testimony to the great surgical skill which you displayed in my case; and I again request that you will accept my most grateful thanks for the kindness and unremitting attention which I received during the whole of the time I was under your care.

"I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

"——— ———."

CASE XLI.

" September, 1839.

" DEAR SIR,

" Having just possessed myself of a copy of your ' Facts and Observations,' in which I observed several highly interesting and important cases, I am induced to forward you the following statement of my own case, in the hope that you may find a place for it in the next edition of your valuable work.

" It is now nearly 15 years since I placed myself under your care, being at that time afflicted with a most dreadful malady, which baffled the skill of my own medical attendant, as well as that of one of the most eminent surgeons and anatomists of the day. My sufferings at that period were so intense that, notwithstanding the years that have since elapsed, the recollection of them is still fresh in my memory, nor do I think it possible for time to efface it.

" The first painful sensation I experienced was

in 1825, when the relief of the bowels was attended with a discharge of blood. Shortly after this became more frequent, occurring at intervals of two or three days, and, as the attacks increased in number, the pain became more and more acute. My medical attendant now suggested a clyster, but he was unable to introduce it owing to some internal obstruction, and his second effort threw me into a fainting fit of such violence as to occasion considerable alarm in his mind. Eventually he advised me to apply to the surgeon before alluded to, who, after examining me, assured me there was nothing the matter, merely observing that I should refrain from the indulgences of the table. In his opinion of my habits, however (formed probably from my robust appearance), he was in error, as my mode of living had always been exceedingly abstemious. A week after I paid him another visit, and his second examination appeared to confirm his first opinion. I now began to grow worse so rapidly, that my first medical attendant advised that I should accompany him to another surgeon, and suggested that an operation would probably be necessary.

I agreed to his proposal, and the day was fixed for our intended visit, but in the meantime a case of a similar nature, in which you had been successful, without surgical operation, coming to my knowledge, induced me to change my mind.

"On my first visit to you, you stated that my complaint was of long standing, and that, though its progress at first was gradual, it had been rapidly accelerated in consequence of deep mental affliction. Feeling the truth of this observation, and finding from the conversation I had with you, that you clearly understood the nature of my disease, I at once resolved to place myself under your care; and although you could not then give an opinion as to the result of your endeavours, a very few days' attendance caused me to experience the most satisfactory effects. By degrees the attacks became less violent as well as less frequent, and after attending you for about four or five months, I became perfectly cured without surgical operation, and with comparatively trifling pain. I have ever since been in the enjoyment of uninterrupted health, and

shall be happy personally to explain to any individual similarly afflicted with what ease and safety I was relieved at your hands of a dreadful complicated malady—a diseased rectum, piles, and internal fistula. Begging you to give my name and address to any applicant,

"I remain your grateful servant,

"——— ———."

CASE XLII.

In June, 1839, a tradesman, residing in the neighbourhood of Soho Square, consulted me for a rather complicated disease of the rectum and urethra. He stated that he had been afflicted for more than seven years, and that he had undergone a very severe operation, without deriving any benefit. I detected an ulceration of the anus, which produced very severe pain when his bowels were relieved. He also stated that for years he had had great difficulty in passing his water; and I found that he laboured under a stricture of the urethra, of a very serious nature. After considerable difficulty I was enabled to pass the smallest bougie, which gave him very great relief, and I subse-

quently was enabled to effect a perfect cure, after about three months' attention. He is now in excellent health, and is enabled to follow his pursuits, which he had been prevented doing for a considerable time. Shortly after his recovery I received from him the following letter, in acknowledgment of the perfect cure I had effected in his complicated and distressing complaint :—

" —— Street, Soho Square, Nov. 1839.

" Dear Sir,

" It is with the deepest sense of gratitude that I address you in acknowledgment of the extraordinary cure you have recently performed upon me. For a very considerable time I had suffered pain of an indescribable nature, and my life had become almost insupportable, from being, previously to my seeing you, shut out from all hope of recovery. Although I had consulted some of the most eminent of the profession, and had undergone a most painful, and, I consider, dangerous operation, I failed to obtain the slightest relief, until I fortunately placed myself in your hands. I now beg to express my most sincere thanks for your kind and careful treatment, by which I am

again restored to perfect health, and my complicated disease entirely eradicated.

"Believe me, dear Sir,

"Ever faithfully your much obliged,

"——— ———."

CASE XLIII.

The following case was written by the patient:—

"Swansea, August 26, 1840.

"SIR,

"I have been afflicted with fistula three years. It first gathered and broke about half an inch from the anus; about 18 months after it gathered and broke an inch up the groin, each time leaving an open wound, the first communicating with the gut, about an inch up. I suffer a great deal of pain from the discharge, but not sufficient to confine me to bed. I am captain of a vessel, but have not been able to attend to my duties for the last nine months. I shall be glad to know from the description I have given you, how long you will require me to stay in London to effect a cure. Your early answer will greatly oblige

"Your obedient servant,

"——— ———."

On the 6th of Sept. 1840, this gentleman arrived in town, when I ascertained he had two fistulæ, one communicating with the bowel. He took lodgings near me, and in 21 days after the commencement of my treatment he returned home perfectly cured. A few months after I received the following letter :—

" Swansea, Nov. 6, 1840.

" My dear Sir,

" I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude for the comfort I now enjoy, through your kind and gentle treatment. I have been cured of two fistulæ of more than three years' standing ; and it appears to me like a dream to have a cure effected with so little pain, and in so short a time. It will at all times give me pleasure to be referred to on the subject of my case.

" Believe me, dear Sir, your much obliged,

" —— ——."

CASE XLIV.

In October, 1840, I was consulted by a field-officer, who, having been through all the Peninsular campaigns, had suffered in almost every possible way from fevers as well as dysentery,

which had caused several tumours to form near the anus. I discovered three hœmorrhoidal tumours—one rather turgid—which were subject to some variation as to size and sensation. Touching one of them with the end of the probe, he at once recognised it as the cause of all his annoyance. I soon found that the uneasiness of which he complained was occasioned by a small fistula and a contracted rectum, which I undertook to cure, as well as the tumours. On the following day I applied my dressing to the largest tumour, which came away on the third day; and I continued my treatment till he was perfectly cured. Previously to his leaving England I received the following letter:—

"Tower, London, April 22, 1841.

"My Dear Sir,

"As I am now on the point of leaving England for a foreign station, I cannot think of quitting this country without expressing to you, in the strongest terms I am able, how grateful I feel for the kind and liberal treatment I have experienced from you during the last four months; in the course of which I have received the greatest attention from you for the cure of a complicated

disease in the rectum, from which I have been suffering for many years, occasioned originally by very severe attacks of dysentery when in Spain, in 1813. Since that time I have consulted every medical man of eminence, and derived no permanent benefit, the complaint having gradually become worse, until at length the pain I experienced when the bowels were relieved was almost insupportable. From this state of suffering, thank God, I am now relieved, through your skilful treatment; and I shall always consider it a duty I owe to you to make known to my brother officers, whose duties so frequently expose them to similar attacks, that by consulting you they will not only be speedily cured, but will also not be subjected to the horrible tortures I have known so many of my friends put to by the mode of treatment usually resorted to in the profession.

"Believe me, most truly yours,

"——— ———."

CASE XLV.

In February, 1841, Major ———, from India, requested my opinion upon some swellings at the anus. He had been afflicted many years, and

came to England for the express purpose of obtaining relief. I ascertained that he had six tumours, which I undertook to cure, provided he would reside near me. I prescribed for him a pill at night and a draught in the morning; and after the bowels had been relieved, I applied my dressing to two of the tumours, which came away on the third day; and continued my attendance till they were all removed. Previously to his leaving England, I received from him the following letter:—

" ——— Square, July 26, 1841.

" My dear Sir,

" With reference to my letter to you of the 30th of April last, I have now great pleasure in acquainting you of my continued improvement in health; and that I am equal to any sort of exercise without inconvenience from the effects of my recent complaint. You found me afflicted with six hœmorrhoidal tumours, and undertook my cure on the 17th of February last, and you had them removed, two at a time, in the most happy and skilful manner, by the 30th of March. The medical certificate and statement of my case, which I gave you, show the great length of time

the complaint had been growing on me, and the treatment I underwent previously to my applying to you.

"I am now preparing to return to India, and shall leave for that purpose about the end of the present month. Grateful to you for your kind and patient attention, and the invaluable service you have rendered to me, and with every good wish for your health and prosperity, believe me,

"My dear Sir, yours very sincerely,

"——— ———."

The following is the certificate, &c., alluded to by Major ———:

"R. ———, Major, 27th Regiment Native Infantry, has, since the month of May last, suffered from dyspepsia of an obstinate and compound character. He has also been subject to piles for the last twenty years. During the recent war in Arracan he was attacked with fever peculiar to that climate, and subsequently with dysentery, which assumed a chronic form and for which he proceeded to the Cape. Since he returned to Kurnaul he has suffered severely from prolapsus ani, accompanied by tenesmus. The sphincter

ani has now so completely lost its power of retention, that very moderate exertion in the way of riding on horseback, moderate walking, or even remaining for any length of time in an upright position, invariably induces a return of the complaint. He has hitherto been able to return the displaced portion of the gut, but with such difficulty at times as to create in his mind serious apprehension of the ultimate consequences.

"He is emaciated in body, and his appetite for food greatly impaired. The treatment has consisted chiefly in purgatives, varied according to symptoms, so as to regulate the action of the stomach and bowels; the occasional application of leeches, cold and astringent lotions, the use of a T bandage, with a compress to retain the parts in situ; but the means employed have only produced temporary and partial relief. His constitution is now so completely broken and enervated, that I am fully convinced nothing except a sea voyage and the bracing effects of a cold climate can afford a reasonable hope of his recovery to sound health.

(Signed) "J. F. Fleming, Surgeon,
"In medical charge, 27th Regt. Native Infantry."

"J. Frederick Fleming, Surgeon, in medical charge of the 27th Regiment Native Infantry at Kurnaul, do hereby certify that R. ———, Major, 27th Regiment Native Infantry, is in a bad state of health; and I solemnly and sincerely declare that, according to the best of my judgment, a change of air is essentially necessary to his recovery, and do therefore recommend that he may be permitted to proceed to Europe, and have leave to be absent from India for the period of three years.

"Certified at Kurnaul, this 20th day of October, 1839.

"J. F. Fleming, Surgeon,
27th Regiment Native Infantry."

"The Kurnaul Medical Committee are of opinion that Major ———'s health is such as to require an immediate return to Europe, and therefore recommend that he may be permitted to proceed forthwith to the Presidency, and eventually to England.

(Signed) "B. Macleod, M.D. President.
Andrew Ross, Surgeon and Member.
J. McGaveston, Surgeon and Member.

"Kurnaul, 20th day of October, 1839."

CASE XLVI.

The following case was written by the patient:—

"Rankuller, Cupar Fife, March 2, 1841.

"SIR,

"Having perused your 'Facts and Observations,' I am desirous of placing myself under your care. I have been for upwards of 30 years afflicted with piles, and suffered more than I ever knew any one to suffer; however, for several years past I have only been subjected to the inconvenience of their coming down when I take any exercise, or when I have a motion. They are seldom inflamed, and are easily returned; but I am anxious to get rid of this annoyance, and if you are of opinion that you could cure me, I shall, on receiving your answer, come to London. It is proper to mention that I am upwards of 60 years of age, stout, and, with the exception of this annoyance, perfectly healthy."

On the 19th of March, 1841, General ——— arrived in town, and I then ascertained that he had lately returned from India, where he had resided more than 30 years. On the following day, after the bowels were relieved, I discovered three

large hœmorrhoidal tumours, and prescribed a pill to be taken at bedtime and a draught in the morning, requesting he would send for me on the bowels being moved, when I applied my dressing to the largest tumour, which came away on the third day, without producing much pain. On the eighth day I dressed the second, which came away at the usual period; and on the seventeenth day I applied my dressing to the third, which enabled him to return home, perfectly cured, after twenty-five days' attendance. I have since received the following satisfactory letter, dated September 26, 1842:—

"General ——— begs to inform Mr. Van Butchell that he has great pleasure in saying he continues in the best state of health, and considers the cure effected by Mr. Van Butchell to be most perfect and complete."

"Edinburgh, September 20, 1842."

CASE XLVII.

In March, 1841, a gentleman from India consulted me for a very troublesome bleeding of the rectum. He had been affected for nearly sixteen

years, and had consulted the most eminent men in India without obtaining relief. After the bowels were relieved there appeared five hœmorrhoidal tumours, two of which bled very freely, and I had some difficulty in replacing the parts, in consequence of some little inflammation from his straining at the closet. I undertook to effect a cure, provided he could reside near me. I commenced my treatment on the following day, and in six weeks he was perfectly cured. Previously to his leaving England I received the following satisfactory letter :—

" St. John's Wood, Regent's Park,
Aug. 20, 1841.

" Dear Sir,

" Before leaving England for India (which I shall do on Monday next), I beg to offer you my sincere thanks for the kindness I at all times received from you, and to acknowledge the deep obligation I shall always consider I am under to you, for the perfect cure you have made of my complaint (bleeding piles), from which I had suffered more than 16 years, while in India. Although I had been under the care of many of the most eminent medical gentlemen, I could

only obtain temporary relief, and was, in consequence, recommended to go to England. This offer I eagerly embraced, as I had heard from a person in India of your skill in similar complaints; and now I thank God that I was directed to you, for, previously to my seeing you, my life was a misery to me.

" You, Sir, know the pale, emaciated appearance I then had, when I told you of the length of time I had been afflicted, and that I never had my bowels moved without the greatest pain and bleeding. You found I had five large tumours, which you offered without a moment's hesitation to cure, and in six weeks after a perfect cure of my complaint was effected, and my health from that time began to mend. I can now say with truth, that I feel as strong and hearty as I ever remember to have been, and for this blessing, which I have not enjoyed for years, am indebted to your skill and gentle treatment, for I assure you I have suffered more pain when my bowels have been moved than I did from any of your dressings. On your removal of the first tumour I actually walked a distance of 16 miles, without experiencing the least inconvenience, and, while

the last dressing was on, walked to the City and back, so very easy did I feel, although while in India I could not have proceeded one mile without suffering the greatest pain.

"I remain, dear Sir,

"Yours most sincerely and gratefully,

"____ ____."

CASE XLVIII.

In June, 1841, a tradesman from South Wales consulted me for a disease of the rectum. I found a fistula penetrating the gut about an inch, from which he had suffered nearly for 10 years. I prescribed a pill and draught, and requested he would send for me on the following day, after the bowels were relieved, when I applied my dressing, and in six weeks he returned home perfectly cured. Shortly after I received from him the following letter:—

"Swansea, Glamorganshire, Sept. 24, 1841.

"Dear Sir,

"I now take up my pen to apologise for my long silence, and beg to say that business alone prevented my writing to you sooner. I am truly

happy to inform you I never enjoyed better health than I do at present. Your skill and reputation being so well known to the public, I need not say much; but am compelled to state that I seem to myself and friends as one raised from the dead, therefore I am anxious to contribute my testimony to that of others who have been cured by your judicious treatment. I beg you will not hesitate to refer any one to me who may wish for a reference. The skill displayed in my case demands my gratitude to Providence for directing me to you, and be pleased to accept my grateful thanks for the unremitting attention you paid to my case during the six weeks I was under your care.

"Your sincere and obliged patient,

"____ ____."

CASE XLIX.

In August, 1842, a tradesman, about 50 years of age, from Halifax, in Yorkshire, consulted me for what he considered bleeding piles. He had been afflicted for upwards of 20 years, and I found he had five hœmorrhoidal excrescences, the largest of which appeared to bleed very much, when the

bowels were relieved. I prescribed some opening medicine, and requested he would see me immediately after the bowels acted, when I applied my dressing to the largest excrescence, which came away on the third day, and afforded him great relief. On the sixth day I applied my second dressing, which came away at the usual period, and I continued my treatment until he was perfectly cured, which occupied about eight weeks. On the 17th of October I received from him the following satisfactory letter:—

"Halifax, Oct. 17, 1842.

"Dear Sir,

"I hope you will excuse my not writing earlier to state how I am; but being, for the sake of fellow-sufferers, anxious to describe what I endured previously to my seeing you, and the benefit I have derived from your surgical attendance, will, I hope, plead my excuse.

"Having been troubled with piles upwards of 20 years, and growing daily worse, after uselessly trying all the medical aid my circumstances would admit of procuring, I relinquished every hope of a cure, and the certainty that my disease would

prove fatal (which the faculty could not deny) preyed so strongly on my mind, that I was in a most hopeless state. However, seeing your work announced in the 'Morning Chronicle,' I procured a copy, and finding on a perusal that several most dangerous cases had been cured by your skill, I resolved on placing myself in your hands, as the surgeons attending me had decided on cutting, to which I reluctantly consented, knowing how frequently such an operation proves fatal; so intense, however, was the inflammation, that I most providentially delayed their intentions till after I had been so fortunate as to consult you, when, with only eight weeks of your skilful treatment, I am now perfectly cured, and enjoying as good health as ever I did in my life, to the great amazement of both myself and friends, who unite with me in sincere gratitude, and the most heartfelt thanks for your kind and patient attention to my sufferings, which I shall embrace every opportunity to name, for the benefit of others, and as a duty I feel your merit as a surgeon deserves at my hands. I hope, Sir, you will give what publicity you please to my case, for the truth of which

I shall be proud and happy to vouch. With every sentiment of regard,

"Believe me, dear Sir,

"Your grateful patient,

"——— ———."

CASE L.

C. W., aged 34, from Hertfordshire, applied to me in March, 1842, with an offensive discharge from an abscess near the anus. I discovered a deep-seated fistula, which I undertook to cure; and prescribed for him some opening medicine, requesting he would see me on the following day, on the bowels being relieved, when I applied my usual dressing and continued my treatment till he was perfectly cured. Some time afterwards I received from him the following letter:—

"Berkhampstead, Herts, April, 1843.

"My dear Sir,

"Having availed myself of your professional skill about a year ago, for a most distressing case of fistula, which to all appearance was deemed incurable, I am most happy to inform you that ever since I had recourse to your professional aid, I have enjoyed a state of health equal to any

former period of my life. * * * I beg to apologize to you for not having acknowledged the result of your judicious treatment of my case at an earlier period. * * * You are now at liberty to make what use of this letter you please.

"I beg to remain,

"My dear Sir, with great respect,

"Yours very truly,

"____ ____."

CASE LI.

In August, 1842, a military officer of high rank (from India), 56 years of age, consulted me for a most painful disease of the rectum, with which he had been afflicted nearly 20 years. I discovered three hœmorrhoidal tumours, and prescribed an aperient medicine, desiring he would send for me after the bowels were relieved; when I found he was suffering severely in consequence of the sphincter muscle acting too powerfully. I ordered an application of leeches, and fomentations afterwards, which relieved him considerably; and in a few days I applied my dressing, continuing my usual treatment till he was perfectly

cured, which occupied scarcely a month's attendance. Shortly afterwards I received the following very satisfactory letter :—

"——— Place, Edinburgh, December 12th, 1844.

"My dear Sir,

"I am happy to acquaint you that I have for some weeks past felt no inconvenience from, or have had any pain in the seat of my old complaint, and am otherwise in excellent health. This will, I am sure, give you great satisfaction, as adding one more to the number of those who must, like me, have reason to bless the day they placed themselves under your kind care.

"Believe me to be, my dear Sir,

"Yours very sincerely,

"——— ———."

"P.S.—If I can be of any use to you in this country, letters will always find me, addressed to the Caledonian United Service Club."

CASE LII.

In May, 1843, a gentleman from Hull consulted me for what he considered prolapsus and piles, but which I found, on examination, to be

tumours of the rectum, to such an extent, that they often protruded when walking. I commenced my usual mode of treatment, which I continued till he was perfectly cured: after which I received from him the following letter:—

"Hull, Yorkshire, 7mo. (July 31), 1844.

"Respected Friend,

"I have for a long time intended to write to thee, but one engagement pressing upon another has prevented my doing so.

"It is about fifteen months since I was under thy kind care, and I can now say that I am at present enjoying as good a state of health as I ever recollect to have been favored with. It is with feelings of gratitude to the Giver of every good and perfect gift, that I was directed to the advertisement of thy book. And I wish to return my sincere thanks for the kindness and attention shewn to me whilst under thy skilful hand.

"I remain, most respectfully, thy Friend,

"——— ———."

CASE LIII.

In July, 1844, I was consulted by a clergyman from Scotland, who for the last ten years had

suffered severely from tumours of the rectum, which had become so enlarged and painful, that, with loss of blood daily, he found his strength declining to such a degree, that he had much difficulty in performing his clerical duties. On examining his case, I found he had excrescences of the rectum to an alarming extent, which I undertook to cure, provided he could reside near me. On the following day I commenced my usual treatment, and in the course of three weeks he was enabled to return home perfectly cured. Shortly after I received from him the following most pleasing letter :—

" Peebles, Aug. 30, 1844.

" Dear Sir,

" I fear my delay in writing to you may have had the appearance of ingratitude, but this I assure you is not the case, since no delay has passed, from the time I left you, at the close of last month, to the present, that I have not expressed thankfulness either to Mrs. B——, or in my own mind, that I was so fortunate as to see the advertisement of your book on Fistulæ, &c., which induced me to go to London, expressly to be under your able and kind care.

"I may say for ten years I had suffered from tumours in the rectum, which lately became so enlarged and painful, with loss of blood almost every day, that I became weak and trembling, and had much difficulty in performing my daily duties; but, thank God, by your gentle and almost painless, but scientific, mode of treatment of my case, by dressings, the tumours came away in about three or four days after each dressing, and I am now completely restored to health.

"The comfort and pleasure I now experience lay me under the deepest obligation to you, and I shall at all times have much pleasure in bearing testimony of the above to any persons whom you may please to refer to me.

"I remain, dear Sir, yours very faithfully,

"——— ———."

CASE LIV.

The following case was written by the patient, a gentleman:—

"Dundee, July 29th, 1844.

"Sir,

"Having heard much of your success in the treatment of piles, I have come to the resolution

of asking your opinion in my own case. I have been suffering from piles for the last 20 years. In the year 1827 I underwent an operation, which gave me some relief, but did not remove the principal inconvenience which I experienced —namely, the pressing down of the gut through the sphincter muscle of the anus; which, without giving me acute pain, produced the most unpleasant nervous sensations, and very much prevented me from walking. In 1834 I underwent a similar operation, the effects of which have been of longer duration; but still the pressing down of the gut, and its unpleasant consequences, continued, and the accumulation of loose skin and flesh has well nigh blocked up the passage. Before the first operation, the piles bled excessively —the bleeding returned in a less degree after that operation. I have had little bleeding since the second operation. I have suffered from constipation for more than 25 years: I was in the constant habit of using laxitive medicines; since then I have taken nothing but homœpathic medicines, which, though they have neither cured the piles nor my constipation, have yet, I think,

materially improved my general health. I do not blame the gentleman who operated upon me before, because I believe that whilst I am obliged to use such efforts and forcing when I go to the water-closet, I cannot fail to have piles; and such is now the inertness of my intestines, that I never expect to get on without such efforts except through purgatives, which I have found to be worse than any forcing. One very annoying circumstance at certain times was, that the pressure, and perhaps the inflamed state of the piles on the neck of the bladder, produced strangury. And during both the operations, for the space of more than a week, I never passed a drop of water except through a catheter. It has been for fear of the recurrence of this most annoying circumstance that has led me to write to you, instead of going back to my last operator, for whose ability I entertain much respect. A gentleman who has received much benefit from your treatment, General ——, tells me that your manner of operating produced so little irritation that he does not think any such consequence as I apprehended could take place (of course this depends on the

constitution of the patient.) I may mention that I am 56 years of age, and of a rather nervous temperament, which has been increased by this malady. I have been recommended to go abroad, to escape our dark and damp winter,—to counteract a tendency to congestion in the abdominal organs, and a general slowness of circulation. I intend to be in London accordingly, on my way to the Continent, about the beginning of September; and if you give me hopes that you can do any thing for me, I shall wait on you on my arrival. I think I have four or five considerable tumours. May I request you to mention what time such cases as mine generally take under your system. Having thus laid my case before you, I have only to express my hope that you may be directed to use such means as will do for me what my former operations have not effected, and

"Remain,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient Servant,

"____ ____."

On the 30th August this gentleman arrived in town. On examination I found he had three hœmorrhoidal excrescences, which I undertook to cure, and which I effected after about three weeks' attendance, when he took his leave perfectly satisfied, and afterwards sent me the following letter:—

"Dear Sir,

"I write now to discharge a debt of gratitude which I have been owing you for some months. In the month of September last, you relieved me of three large hœmorrhoidal tumours in the course of about three weeks, without pain, and without trouble or annoyance worth speaking of. I had suffered from the complaint for twenty years, and during that time had undergone two operations, once in London and once in Edinburgh, by the hands of the most distinguished men in that department of surgery in the two capitals. I cannot speak too highly of the attention which I received from both

those gentlemen; at the same time I must say that I suffered most severe pain, not so much at the moment of operation—although that was not inconsiderable—as for the 70 or 80 hours after the operation, during which the process of inflammation took place, and after which I suffered much from the great irritation produced on the gut, and communicated from it to the neck of the bladder, in consequence of which I was obliged to have recourse to mechanical assistance to get rid of my urine, for about ten days. Your method of operating was completely free from all these inconveniences, neither giving pain at the time, nor annoyance afterwards. I write this as my certificate of what you have done for me in comparison with what the common practice had done for me before, in the hands of its most eminent professors; and I authorize you to add it, if you are so inclined, to the number of testimonials from other patients which you have already published, and to refer any one to me who may desire further particulars. I think myself bound in conscience to make this declaration, both for

your sake and for the sake of all who are afflicted as I have been. I return you my best thanks, and remain,

"Dear Sir,

"Your obliged humble Servant,

"——— ———."

"Vichy, Dept. de L'Allier, France,
"28th June, 1845."

CASE LV.

In September 1844, a gentleman of title consulted me for what he considered a prolapsus. I discovered four hœmorrhoidal excrescences, which I removed, as also four others which I subsequently detected, and by the removal of which a cure of his painful complaint was effected. The following letter I received some time afterwards :—

"——— Cockspur Street, 22nd December, 1844.

"My Dear Sir,

"I have waited to write to you, in the an-

ticipation of being able to inform you, (as I can do now after the lapse of a sufficient period of time since your last visit), that I feel myself thoroughly and completely cured of my ailment.

"Although my complaint has not yet affected my constitution seriously, and might therefore be called local, I have no doubt but that my health must shortly have given way and that it would have killed me, had I not fortunately been preserved by your scientific treatment. For some years I had, as you know, suffered very distressing inconvenience from an almost continual liability to a discharge of blood, and could not walk a quarter of a mile on many days, and never more than three or four miles, without being subject to prolapsus.

"All unpleasant symptoms are now completely at an end by the removal of the eight internal tumours, which operations were performed by you with the most inconsiderable degree of pain, and, with the exception of one instance, which I attribute entirely to my own imprudence, with *no* confinement.

"I feel confident that people are not generally aware that there is a perfect cure, such as you perform, for the complaint commonly called 'Piles;' and as I feel that to make the fact known as much as lies in my power is only to do my duty, I wish hereby to give you full authority to refer to any person who asks your advice to me; and I shall have much pleasure in stating personally the very high opinion I entertain of your superior medical and surgical talent and skill in the treatment of that class of painful disorders to which the study of your life has been so successfully devoted.

"I am really grateful to you for the attentive care and kindness I have received from you uniformly, during your attendance upon me; and beg you will believe me to be,

"My dear Sir,

"Very sincerely yours,

"——— ———."

Since the preceding was written, I have also received the following letter from the same gentleman.

" —— Street, August 1st, 1845.

" My dear Sir,

" To-morrow, eight months will have elapsed since the 2nd of last December, the day when you performed the last dressing upon me, rendered necessary by my late grievous complaint; and you will no doubt learn with pleasure, that I have never since suffered the slightest relapse.

" I can walk a whole morning without any inclination of the parts to *prolapsus;* there has never been appearance of hœmorrhoides, or indeed the slightest discharge whatever of blood; but I have been, and am continually, as well as ever I was in my life.

" Let me therefore repeat my thanks for the kindness which, during the period of your attendance, I received at your hands; and assure you that I shall never cease to appreciate, and make known to others as much as lies in my power, your extraordinarily skilful manner of

removing internal tumours, with a really inconsiderable degree of pain and inconvenience to the patient.

"Such is what I shall relate personally, with pleasure, to any person you may ever think proper to refer to me.

"Wishing you a long continuance of that health which it is the constant business of your life to restore to others, as you have restored to me,

"Believe me to be,

"My dear Sir,

"Yours very sincerely,

"——— ———."

CASE LVI.

In March 1845, a neighbour called on me, requesting I would visit a friend of his who was suffering severely from prolapsus. He had been confined to his bed for some days, and was in great agony of mind through dread of an operation by the knife, under which his brother had died. I discovered several hœmor-

rhoidal excrescences, which I commenced dressing on the following day; and in less than a month he was perfectly cured, which he gratefully acknowledged by the following letter:—

" ——— Place, Bayswater, August 15th, 1845.

" My dear Sir,

" For upwards of 20 years I suffered from tumours of the rectum, and at times my agonies for a day or two were severe, from my inability to return the parts. During 20 years of misery I had all sorts of remedies prescribed and applied without obtaining relief; when about six months ago I had an attack so severe that it would not yield to three applications of leeches, fomentations, &c.; and I was confined to my bed in a state of despair, through the dread of the knife, from which I had seen my brother suffer and lose his life. Happily a friend called and advised me to see you; and most thankful am I that I was induced to place myself in your able and skilful hands, for in less

than a month I was restored to as sound and comfortable a state of body as I had ever enjoyed in youth. I have now been cured nearly five months, and I daily feel grateful to the Giver of every blessing for directing me to your notice. I should wish my case to be published for the encouragement of fellow-sufferers.

" Believe me,

" My dear Sir,

" Your deeply obliged servant,

" ——— ———."

CASE LVII.

The following case is written by the patient, a lady, from the continent.

" Sir,

" About 10 years ago, I was first annoyed by piles, but paid little attention to them, as the attack was not of long duration, and to the age of eight, or nine-and-twenty, enjoyed the most

uninterrupted and robust state of health, when a severe domestic affliction caused an entire change in my constitution, I had often violent pains in my head, back, and side, with such a debility of the system, that I was led to consult an eminent physician of Glasgow, and by use of shower-baths, quinine, and other remedies, was once more restored to health, but a second affliction brought on a return of all my former bad symptoms, with such a violent attack of piles, that my parents were induced to come to London to consult a medical man, eminent for such complaints, who with the knife removed the largest, which he said had begun to mortify, when I again obtained relief, and on the part getting healed, was enabled to travel, derived benefit from the country air, baths, &c. &c. and became for a time once more myself as I fancied, but the disease not being eradicated, and a recurrence of these attacks became more frequent, and so preyed on my nerves, reduced my strength, and shook my whole frame, that my sufferings became intense, my husband tried all that change of air and scene could effect, for my benefit, but without avail,

I became worse from the addition of stricture and fissure to piles, my agonies were indescribable, my shrieks on having the bowels relieved might be heard a distance off, and yet I could no where obtain relief, but your book has fortunately been met with here, and it contains so simple and clear a description of my case, that I have decided on coming to England, to place myself under your care, if you can give my painful disease your attention at once, and think that I shall derive benefit from it."

This lady came as proposed; on examination I found she was labouring under two tumours, with stricture of the rectum, which I undertook to cure, in case she could reside near me, which she did, and the result of my treatment of her case, is manifested by the following letter which I received previous to her return to France.

"Thayer Street, Manchester Square,
28th June, 1845.

"My dear Sir,

"I cannot leave town even for a few days, without thanking you with all the warmth I am able to express, for the kind and constant attention, and liberal conduct you have displayed towards me since I became your patient. To be enabled to walk, sit, sleep, eat, and in short do as other people do, appears yet to me so strange, that I can scarcely believe myself to be the same person who sailed from France a month ago. You have cured so many (by others pronounced incurable cases) that my humble testimony as to your abilities seem almost unnecessary, at the same time as I have, before knowing you, submitted to the *knife*, I am fully competent to bear witness that your method is not only much less painful, but safe, which the other is not. At all times, and in all places, I shall be most happy

to add my small mite towards spreading your fame. I shall be delighted to answer the most minute question to any lady, whilst my father, Mr. ——, may be referred to by men; and I hope you will never hesitate to call upon me for assistance in any way. I beg you to believe me, in sincere regard with which

" I remain, dear Sir,

" Yours gratefully,

" —— ——."

CRITICAL REMARKS.

This volume presents to us a number of illustrations of his singular success under circumstances that would have induced despair in any professor of less mastery, or less accustomed to accomplish cures where cures seem impossible. The statements here made are most convincing, and place beyond doubt the superiority of the treatment to which they refer.—*Court Journal*, August, 1837.

We earnestly recommend this volume to the attention of all persons; those who are unfortunately afflicted with any of the diseases of which it treats will find how they may obtain relief, without the uncertainty attending an operation, and with comparatively little pain; while those whom Providence has spared so dreadful a visitation may learn how to avoid such distressing complaints * * * It abounds with interesting cases, which are attested by the patients themselves, who, under Mr. Van Butchell's care, have been restored to health, when every other treatment has failed.—*West Kent Guardian*, August, 1837.

The great surgical skill and attention of Mr. Van Butchell to certain complaints of a most painful nature are well known. The volume before us contains a record of his practice, and a concise but simple treatise on the subject.—*Bell's Weekly Messenger*, August, 1837.

To all who are afflicted with any of the complaints of which it treats, we would recommend the perusal of the work, as exemplifying the superiority of Mr. Van Butchell's treatment over the ordinary method. * * * The cases, some of which are detailed by the patients themselves, attest his singular success under most extraordinary circumstances, and in many instances where the sufferer had previously been shut out from all hope of recovery.—*Shipping Gazette*, August 23, 1837.

We have to draw a wide distinction between this eminent and regularly-educated surgeon, and the ordinary advertising professor. But as his father was eminently successful in the treatment of these maladies, the experience which the author had must have, added to a long period of regular study, well qualified him to write as well as to practise.—*Gardeners' Gazette*, September 9, 1837.

This is a clever and clearly written treatise on an extensive and painful class of diseases; calculated to convey to the mind of the patient a clear idea of the peculiar nature of his complaint, and the best mode of his treatment.—*Brighton Herald*, September 16, 1837.

We should have had some hesitation in noticing this work, did we not know that Mr. Van Butchell is, in his department, the most successful practitioner of the age; and that, in calling the public attention to his system, we shall

doubtless be pointing out to many persons the most certain and effectual means of relief.—*Cheltenham Journal*, October 2, 1837.

The author appears to have had long experience, extensive practice, and great success in the treatment of hœmorrhoidal affections, the result of which is here published in a brief form, and language intelligible to the least scientific reader. * * * It must excite a feeling of deep interest and gratification in the minds of all suffering from these afflictions, to learn from Mr. Van Butchell's testimonials that cases of thirty and forty years' standing have yielded to his practice.—*Morning Advertiser*, October 4, 1837.

A register of valuable facts and observations made by the author during a long and successful practice in the painful and distressing diseases of whose cure he treats. * * * The numerous cases adduced by the author, of cures effected even under the most inauspicious circumstances, by his mode of treatment, are such as must satisfy even the most incredulous of its efficacy.—*Cheltenham Chronicle*, October 12, 1837.

How valuable a member of society is that man who can bring human art to the alleviation of suffering humanity! That death is certain to us all, admits of no doubt, and the skill, therefore, of the practitioner hath at length its boundary. But there are many complaints that are worse than death, and amongst them that of fistula may be classed. Mr. Van Butchell has paid considerable attention to all those complaints which are allied to, or engender fistula; and we have heard from a private source, on which we can rely, that he has entered on a most successful practice for its cure. A very favourable feature in his remedies is, that he neither adopts cutting nor confinement, which will be seen in numerous cases that are cited in the present volume; it is, in fact, a familiar exposition of the practice which Mr. Van Butchell professes to follow.—*Sherborne, Dorchester, and Taunton Journal*, October 12, 1837.

The sufferings occasioned to our species by the class of diseases to which this little treatise relates, makes any attempt to point out the means of their alleviation and removal a welcome present to humanity. Mr. Van Butchell's Essay, however, deserves a higher eulogium, since its perusal will convince the reader that the tremendous operation usually practised for the eradication of the complaint is unnecessary, and need no longer alarm the patient by its anticipation. The author proposes a mode of treatment at once more certain in its ultimate effects, and divested of all the terrors of its pain; and its successful use is demonstrated by the numerous cases which the author has cited of its efficacy.—*Gloucestershire Chronicle*, October 14, 1837.

This work contains numerous illustrations of Mr. Van Butchell's singular success, even where the case had been considered hopeless by some of the most eminent men of the profession. Among the cases we observe that of a gentleman residing in our own country, who had been afflicted for upwards of twenty years, and who states that he was perfectly cured by Mr. Van Butchell's treatment, and that he shall be happy to be referred to by any person suffering under similar complaints, to attest Mr. Van Butchell's extraordinary skill. —*Hertford Reformer*, November 7, 1837.

Of this work we hear, from those best entitled to speak on the subject, high commendations, as it has been transmitted to us by one who states that he is "under great obligations to Mr. Van Butchell, having been cured by him after being afflicted upwards of six years, and been under several eminent surgeons, who could afford no relief."—*Brighton Gazette*, Nov. 30, 1837.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

It is only very long and extensive practice that could have enabled Mr. Van Butchell to have published a work of this kind now before us, which contains an endless number of cases, of not only an interesting nature, but of importance to every one, from patients themselves, who have been restored to sound health by Mr. Van Butchell's successful treatment in cases of the most obstinate and determined character, and where other surgical skill has failed.—*Blackwood's Lady's Magazine*, Dec. 1837.

A very unpretending work, divested of all those professional technicalities so tiresome to the general reader. The book, as its title imports, treats on piles, fistula, &c., and will repay a perusal to those afflicted with these annoying diseases.—*United Service Gazette*, December 1, 1838.

The various cases described in this work, which have been completely cured by Mr. Van Butchell, would lead to a conclusion that his method of treatment is superior to that of many practitioners. A patient who was under his care, in addressing us on the subject, says, " You will better judge than I can adequately express, how greatly I am indebted to the worthy author's professional skill, by turning to my case, which is No. 23, commencing page 108, in his book. * * * After enduring two years' excruciating pain, a cure was effected by Mr. Van Butchell."—*Worcester Journal*, March 22, 1838.

The diseases which form the theme of this treatise constitute, from their frequent occurrence, one of peculiar interest to suffering humanity; and, from a perusal of this production, it will be at once seen that the author displays a knowledge adequate to the task he has undertaken. The preliminary chapters describe succinctly, in lucid and popular language, the cause, nature, and treatment of the different maladies under consideration; and the subsequent part of the work is occupied in the detail of cases illustrating the successful practice of the writer. Not many years ago, excision was the treatment universally adopted in some of the diseases referred to, and the loss of life was not an unfrequent consequence of this painful and dangerous mode of procedure. Mr. Van Butchell altogether discards the use of the knife,—and judging from the cases recorded, success has almost uniformly accrued from the plan substituted.—*Weekly Chronicle*, 15th April, 1838.

A successful mode of treatment in the painful and complicated diseases to which this volume refers, has, it appears, been discovered by Mr. Van Butchell. The fact that this treatise has run through a third edition,—that it has been extensively circulated, and met with equally extensive approval, sufficiently attests its merits. It is written in a plain, unlaboured style, and contains a number of grateful testimonials to Mr. Van Butchell from persons who have been cured by its learned author; some of the cases are, we observe, of very long standing, and must have been proportionably obstinate.—*Western Luminary*, May 21, 1838.

Few men connected with the complicated departments of surgery are deserving of more grateful mention than Mr. Van Butchell, whose unwearied dedication to the cure of those most painful of all diseases, which this book treats of, has resulted in a continued course of success in cases of the most hopeless and forbidding nature. * * * We find nearly every page recording some astonishing cure in patients whose sufferings had been for many years' duration, and most excruciating in their nature. The warmth of expression with which the gratitude of some of the restored is couched must be truly gratifying to the feelings, and highly creditable to the skill and judgment of Mr. Van Butchell.—*Weekly True Sun*, July 15, 1838.

We have perused carefully this well-written and scientific treatise of the author on a successful mode of treating piles, fistula, tumours, &c., without cutting or confinement. This is a work that ought to be read by every person, whether suffering or not from either of these afflicting disorders, as in the one case it gives the patient the strongest hopes of recovery, if the advice is attended to; and, in the other, it informs those who enjoy the blessing of health, how to guard against its dreadful effects, by a suitable regimen and frugal way of living. The number of testimonials from persons of the highest respectability, contained in this treatise, is one of the best proofs of the author's talent, and he may be justly considered one of the first operators of the day for that distressing affliction.—*London Dispatch*, Dec. 23, 1838.

Too great encomium cannot be passed upon Mr. Van Butchell, for his superior treatment of fistula, &c., as is proved by the last edition of his work, " where stands the naked truth." We need only add, that few men have gained so high a place of pre-eminence in the medical world as Mr. Van Butchell, and which, by his unwearied and infallible exertions to alleviate the sufferings of mankind, he justly merits.—*Lincoln and Stamford Mercury*, Feb. 1, 1839.

This work has been put into our hands by a clergyman beneficed in this diocese, who has had four hœmorrhoidal tumours removed by Mr. Van Butchell, without any confinement to bed, without any pain worth mentioning, without risk, and with scarcely any alteration of diet; and, on the seventeenth day, he was enabled to return home without the slightest inconvenience. He informs us also, that he has seen the originals of many of the letters in Mr. Van Butchell's book, and can vouch for the fidelity with which they have been published. He speaks in the highest terms of Mr. Van B.'s scientific mode of treatment; and would confidently recommend any person who labours under these complaints to put himself into that gentleman's hands, being fully assured that he will receive every benefit which can be obtained from the greatest skill and experience, united with perfect safety, and employed with unwearied attention and kindness.—*Norwich Mercury*, Feb. 2, 1839.

We have carefully examined this little work; its exposition of the origin and general character of fistula, &c., is lucid and distinct. Mr. Van Butchell's mode of treatment, superseding the use of the bistoury and other cutting instruments, is a triumph of medical art, and a boon to society at large. We confidently recommend this treatise to the attentive perusal of all those who may unhappily labour under this severe malady.—*Argus*, June 30, 1839.

It is very rarely our practice to advert to books on professional subjects, but the ' Facts and Observations' appear, by their practical and unpretending character, to indicate so easy and prompt a relief from a large class of most painful and distressing diseases, that we believe this word of commendation from us, which we give with much sincerity, will not be thought misplaced or without its use.—*Examiner*, Sept. 15, 1839.

There is a very large class of diseases, affecting great numbers of persons, productive of most intolerable misery, and most difficult of cure, one form of which is that distressing complaint which stands first on the list of those so ably treated of in this volume. The friend by whom it was placed in our hands, with an earnest recommendation to call to it the attention of any such of our readers as may chance to be afflicted with any one of that class of diseases, had himself been cured by the author of this volume, when all other

medical men had left him in despair, and this too, without an operation. It is an inexpensive little volume, and the perusal of it may save many an hour of anguish.—*The Somerset County Gazette*, May 23, 1840.

In this volume Mr. Van Butchell, an able and experienced surgeon of the metropolis, whose attention and practice have been devoted to the treatment of fistula, and hœmorrhoidal excrescences generally, has laid the benefit of his experience before the world. The present is the fourth edition of the work—the best tribute to the estimation in which it is held. The best feature of Mr. Van Butchell's mode of treatment is dispensing with the painful, and, at all times, dangerous operations of the knife. The work is divested of technicalities, and the information it contains can be appreciated by all. The cases mentioned by the author are remarkable instances of the success which has attended the most complicated diseases of the rectum and the anus. Those who have the misfortune to labour under the "ills that flesh is heir to," originating in those complaints, cannot do better than consult its pages. —*Liverpool Chronicle*, June 20, 1840.

We consider it one, and not the least essential, of the duties of the press, to fix public attention upon every system of medical and surgical practice that has, by success, established its efficacy in the cure of any of "the thousand natural ills that flesh is heir to," or even in the relief of human suffering, and if we needed the incitement of example to impress that duty upon us, in the present instance, we should find it in the high and unqualified eulogies which many of our leading contemporaries in the metropolis have pronounced upon those 'Facts and Observations,' which are the result of Mr. Van Butchell's long professional experience, and of a practice as eminently successful as it has been beneficially extensive. If higher testimony to his skill were needed, we find it in the following account of a public tribute of gratitude paid to him by those who have had the best opportunities of appreciating his abilities, and whose testimony is therefore beyond all question.—*The Salisbury and Wiltshire Herald*, Nov. 21, 1840.

In alleviating and curing some of the most distressing maladies which afflict man, there have been few more successful practitioners than Mr. Van Butchell, who, in this plain and unpretending book, gives us a lucid account of the origin and general character of fistula, and the other diseases mentioned in the title-page. There are many successful cases recorded there, which furnish incontestible evidence of the advantages to be derived from his system; and we are happy to be acquainted with some highly respectable parties who have been under this eminent practitioner's care, and who, through his admirable and judicious treatment, have been completely cured. *Derbyshire Courier*, Feb. 6, 1841.

The statements contained in this work are made in a plain, unostentatious style, that adds to the weight of their own internal evidence that they are true. The object of the writer is to show that his mode of treatment, into which operation by the knife never enters, has been successful, and the narrative is well worthy of attention from all who suffer from the painful class of diseases which Mr. Van Butchell has made it the business of his life to study.—*The Tablet*, July 24, 1841.

Generally speaking, the less the public have to do with medical works the better, for frequently the reading of them gives birth to a sort of nervous sympathy which is almost as bad as disease; but to the work before us this observation does not apply. Again, too often advertising professors are

mere quacks; but Mr. Van Butchell is a regularly educated surgeon, and follows the practice of his father, who was famed for his successful treatment of the maladies which form the subject of this work; therefore that objection does not apply here. We do not think it falls within the province of the non-medical press to notice works of a strictly professional character, but the practical and unpretending manner in which the subject is treated, the great number of persons who are, unfortunately, deeply interested in it, and the sufferings which they endure owing to ignorance as to the nature of the complaint, and a disinclination to mention it, render this work an exception to the rule. No one can read it without being struck with the great simplicity which characterises Mr. Van Butchell's mode of treatment, and the astonishing success that has attended it. The latter is attested by a most numerous list of testimonials from persons of the highest respectability, and, judging from these, and from information derived from private sources, we do not hesitate to say, that those afflicted with the complaints treated of by Mr. Van Butchell will receive relief at his hands, if relief be attainable. To those labouring under incipient, or compound disease, the perusal of this book will afford useful information and great consolation, and we are doing no more than an act of justice to the author, and our duty to the public, in recommending it to their notice.—*Wiltshire Independent*, April 7, 1842.

This is a popular treatise on a class of complaints which are, unfortunately, very prevalent and troublesome. The name of Van Butchell is already well known to the profession and the public. He has for many years devoted his special attention to these cases, and has succeeded in discovering a mild, safe, and efficacious mode of treatment. The advantage of a division of labour is more manifest in the medical than in almost any other science. By devoting his special attention to diseases of the chest, Lænec made a number of most important pathological and practical discoveries; so also did Rayer, with respect to diseases of the skin. The advantage of making a study of one particular branch of the profession is, indeed, almost self-evident. The oculist, the aurist, and the dentist, each in his separate vocation, acquires an acute perception and expert manipulation, which can hardly be expected from the more general practitioner. So, also, it is as respects the class of complaints to which Van Butchell has directed his particular attention. He has in this volume explained his mode of treatment in language divested of professional technicalities, and given the particulars of upwards of forty cases, many of which were obviously of a very complex and obstinate character. His plan of treatment is evidently safe and exceedingly efficacious, and we can recommend this volume to the attention both of the profession and public.—*British Queen and Statesman*, May 1, 1842.

From a perusal of the contents of this work we can confidently recommend it to the public. It will be found a work unpretending, and divested of all technicalities.—*Westmoreland Gazette*, Oct. 22, 1842.

This treatise is, as its title explains, a familiar, and what may be called a popular, exposition of a class of local disorders under which many persons frequently suffer. The absence, in a great measure, of technicalities, renders the work easily comprehensible to every one of ordinary attainments and intelligence. A great advantage seems to have been attained, in the practice here explained, in the disuse of the knife, with all its attendant dangers and

critical results. And though we have not the ability to form an opinion on the *rationale* of the system, abundance of testimony to the salutary effects of the new practice is given to carry strong conviction to the mind. We must differ from our author as to his explanation of the literal meaning of the word *hemorrhoid*, which appears to be correctly retained in its usual acceptation and to agree perfectly with the characteristics so lucidly described in the treatise before us. But a slip of inadvertence upon the force of a Greek derivative can little affect the merits of a work, in all its material and practical points, so admirably and clearly directed to its objects ; and we have very great pleasure in offering our humble testimony of approval to the author for this valuable contribution to the means of alleviating 'the ills that flesh is heir to,' by such improvements upon surgical practice and science as, while going as effectually to the eradication of disease, accomplish the purpose by milder, less painful, and safer modes of treatment than those which have hitherto seemed unavoidable.—*Leeds Intelligencer*, 24 December, 1842.

The work before us, though not elaborate in its extent, is one which, in our opinion, cannot fail to be interesting; not only to the student, but to the public generally. He who may unfortunately be labouring under the infirmities here referred to, will find a panacea for the complained of evils, and have an opportunity of reading numerous cases which the talented author has treated successfully. Having carefully perused the work, we can strongly recommend it to the notice of our readers, fully satisfied that Mr. Van Butchell's talents, as here displayed, will prove a boon to afflicted humanity. —*City Chronicle*, 24 January, 1843.

This is a useful work, the complaint being the too frequent attendant upon sedentary pursuits and habits. The public reception of the work, which has reached eight editions, is a sufficient stamp of its worth and ability. We can recommend it to that large class who are unfortunately suffering under the complaints of which it practically treats. Its statements are confirmed by a collection of letters and cases.—*Bell's Weekly Messenger*, 25 November, 1843.

This is a work which will recommend itself strongly to the attention of those who are labouring under any of the class of diseases which the author has particularly made his study, and in his treatment of which he seems to have been eminently successful. The cases adduced are of a very convincing nature, and afford such satisfactory proof of the superiority of the practice pursued by Mr. Van Butchell, that we would urge the afflicted to an early perusal of its pages.—*Gloucester Journal*, 13 January, 1844.

We have read this work with great interest. The diseases of which it treats are unfortunately of but too common occurrence, and, in a great majority of cases, resist the usual mode of treatment, or yield only to severe and painful operations. These, the author assures us, he in no case has recourse to ; and devotes more than one hundred and forty pages of his book to the detail of cases cured by his peculiar method of treatment. We would recommend all those desirous of further information on these subjects to obtain the work, and give it their best attention. — *The Church and State Gazette*, 9 August, 1844.

The numerous editions through which this work has passed, and the commendations bestowed upon it by almost the entire press of this country, might preclude us from adding our testimony to that of others in favour of

the clearness of its statements, and the mass of evidence produced in confirmation of the successful practice of the author; but we should judge it a dereliction of our duty to the public at large, and especially to a very numerous class who may be suffering under one of the most painful and depressing, and not unfrequently fatal, diseases to which the human frame is subject, did we not earnestly advise such to an attentive perusal of this volume. What may add weight to our advice is, that recently we have had convincing proof of Mr. Van Butchell's admirable mode of treatment, in the successful termination of a case that has fallen under our notice, which for years resisted the power of medicine, and the skill of some very eminent practitioners: the cure was quickly effected, without the severe and dangerous operation of the knife usually resorted to, and with comparatively little pain to the patient. Facts such as these, of which Mr. Van Butchell's work contains a long list, that can be equally substantiated, cannot be too much prized, or too generally known.—*The Atlas*, 14 December, 1844.

The work is written in a clear, concise, popular style, and the numerous cases of successful treatment which are adduced will bring the symptoms of these diseases home to the minds of those who, labouring under them, may from ignorance continue to suffer without amelioration or hope.—*Colonial Magazine*, January, 1845.

An interesting publication on a highly important subject, of which this is the ninth edition, revised and enlarged,—a fact which renders further comment unnecessary.—*The Christian Witness, and Church Member's Magazine*, May, 1846.

This is the ninth edition, revised and enlarged, of one of the very best works on a very common and painful disease. The well-earned fame of Mr. Van Butchell is so generally known that it is almost superfluous to dilate upon it; but we cannot help strenuously recommending his "Facts and Observations relative to a Successful Mode of treating Piles and Fistula," as we are confident that if due attention be paid to them an immense amount of human suffering will be alleviated. Mr. Van Butchell cures without having recourse to the knife, and numerous letters from patients cured by his "dressing," must satisfy the most sceptical that his treatment is the right one.—*Bell's Life*, 5th September, 1847.

John Augustus

Denton